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THE TIMES 50P

No. 66,227 SATURDAY JUNE 13 1998 <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

Honour for a centre-forward and for those on the inside left

By PHILIP WEBSTER POLITICAL EDITOR

GEOFF HURST, England's World Cup hero of an earlier generation, is knighted today as Tony Blair shamelessly exploits the nation's football fever by rekindling the spirit of 1966. With England waiting to play their opening match of World Cup 1998, the only man ever to score three goals in a final becomes the latest footballing knight 32 years after he helped defeat West Germany at Wembley.

The award for the former West Ham player, 56, who is involved in the move to bring the World Cup back to England in 2006, comes as England prepare to face Tunisia on Monday. He admitted to being "thrilled to bits."

Downing Street made no apology for the lateness of the award or its populist timing. Mr Blair's spokesman said: "The Prime Minister, who has since met Mr Hurst, remembers him as one of his heroes when he watched the World Cup final in 1966. Perhaps this will be added encouragement to Shearer, Owen and Sheringham to get hat tricks, too."

Then with spindostoring care, the spokesman added that his remarks also applied to Scottish forwards such as Kevin Gallacher and Gordon Durie.

It is one of many eye-catching sporting, entertainment and arts awards in today's Queen's Birthday Honours. The entertainment awards include prominent Labour supporters David Hare, the playwright, and John Mortimer, lawyer and creator of Rumpole, who are knighted; Bruce Forsyth, one of showbusiness's most versatile performers and regular game show host (OBE); John Peel, the veteran disc jockey (OBE); the dancer Wayne Sleep, who danced with Diana, Princess of Wales at the Royal Opera House (OBE); Peter Cattaneo, director of *The Full Monty*, is awarded an MBE. June Whitfield, star of *Absolutely Fabulous*, is a CBE.

In the world of broadcasting, John Birt, the BBC director-general, receives a knighthood. The television film critic, Barry Norman, who is moving to Sky after more than 25 years with the BBC, is made a CBE. Victoria Glendinning, the biographer, receives a CBE. Terry Pratchett, author of the Discworld fantasies, gets an OBE.

John Eliot Gardiner, a veteran of Glyndebourne, and a master of the subtleties of Puccini, gets a knighthood for services to music while the virtuoso cellist, Steven Isserlis, gets a CBE. Peter Hemmings, a veteran of Sadler's Wells Opera, gets an OBE for his

Continued on page 2, col 7

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Fox-hunting: the people will decide

By PHILIP WEBSTER POLITICAL EDITOR

PEOPLE will decide in local referendums whether fox-hunting should be banned in their areas under a surprise plan backed by senior ministers.

The idea has been proposed by members of the Cabinet and leading backbenchers as a way of resolving the Government's long-standing dilemma over fox-hunting which has left it in open conflict with Labour MPs.

Tony Blair and many of his Cabinet colleagues have been reluctant to allow government time for a Bill to ban hunting, knowing that it would clog up its legislative timetable, particularly in the House of Lords.

More importantly, they are also reluctant to upset Labour's supporters in the countryside by imposing a centralised ban on one of the traditional rural pursuits.

But with the dispute certain to break out again in the autumn, ministers who have been against a government ban are now backing the idea of devolving the decision to local people. They believe it could at last get them off the hook.

They are proposing that county councils or some other layer of local government should be given the power to license or not license local hunts, possibly after holding referendums of all voters in their region.

The idea is understood to be backed by key figures such as Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio and confidant of the Prime Minister. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary — who saw the scale of backbench anger at the Government's refusal to grant time when he addressed a Parliamentary Labour Party meeting in March — is also believed to be attracted by the plan. So is Ann Taylor, the Commons leader, who is regularly asked by MPs to find time for a government Bill on the issue.

But the key figure is Clive Soley, chairman of the 400-strong PLP, who has been discreetly canvassing backbenchers to see whether they would support the plan. He has emerged during the past year as one of the most powerful people in the party, with regular access to Mr Blair.

The proposal would have obvious attractions to the Prime Minister, who is opposed to hunting but has always doubted whether it is the job of government to ban it. The plan would mean hunting being stopped in areas with particularly strong local feeling against it, but the Government would not necessarily be blamed.

Although nothing has been decided, one very live option is that an amendment giving councils the power to make decisions on banning hunts could be added to a government Bill in the next session of Parliament.

Mr Straw has been reluctant to allow his criminal justice Bill to be used as a vehicle. But an expected local government Bill to be brought forward by John Prescott will increase the powers of local authorities, including giving them the right to hold local referendums.

It would be straightforward to make an amendment to the Bill allowing local polls on fox-hunting.

One obvious difficulty would be the practical problems if hunts are banned in one area but allowed in an adjoining one. Hunts do not necessarily follow county boundaries. However, ministers say the snag should not be insurmountable, and that it would be up to hunts to ensure that they stayed within boundaries.

The latest backbench attempt to ban hunting — through a Bill introduced by Labour's Worcester MP Mike Foster — predictably failed amid Labour backbench fury because the Government declined to take it over and push it through Parliament.

The new move has emerged because the Government accepts that unless action is taken it is almost certain to face an annual repeat of the row over the Foster Bill.

The vast majority of Labour MPs favour a fox-hunting ban and any one of them finishing near the top of the autumn ballot for private members' legislation could opt to introduce another Bill.



Greg Rusedzki fell and injured his left ankle in the Stella Artois tournament, jeopardising his chances of playing at Wimbledon. Page 34

Pensioner beaten by youths dies

A pensioner who was attacked by youths when he tried to stop them vandalising a fence, died in hospital last night. John Robinson, 66, was returning home after celebrating his birthday at a social club in Yardley, Birmingham, on Wednesday when he encountered the gang.

Last night West Midlands Police were questioning five teenagers arrested in the Yardley area.

Tories hope Major will 'stop Archer'

By ANDREW PIERCE AND MICHAEL GOVE

SENIOR Tories are preparing to draft in John Major in an attempt to persuade Lord Archer to withdraw from the race for Mayor of London.

With Lord Archer promising to fight on, the former Prime Minister has emerged as the only figure with the influence to persuade him to pull out.

It was Mr Major who made the novelist a life peer in 1992. It was Lord Archer to whom Mr Major turned when he was told the party was heading for electoral defeat. Conservative Central Office wants to keep a distance from the controversy. But *The Times* has learnt that there was plotting to stop Lord Archer from becoming mayor at a dinner in April for the Oxford Union's 175th anniversary.

William Hague, Michael Heseltine, Sir Edward Heath and, significantly, Michael Crick, the novelist's biographer, were among the guests. Also present was Alan Duncan, a Hague lieutenant and a friend of Mr Crick. Mr Crick's advice was sought on how to destroy the Archer campaign. He urged the Tories to subject him to the party's new ethics and integrity committee.

Senior party figures confirmed that they hope Mr Major will act without having to be asked. One said: "There is now a growing perception that Jeffrey is going to make things worse for himself and the party. We hope John Major will take Jeffrey aside and have a quiet word."

Guerlain shot

Jean-Paul Guerlain, the French perfume maker, was shot and injured by armed raiders who stole £1 million of valuables from his home outside Paris. The raid took place only hours after he had presented his latest scent, Guerlainade, at a press gala. Page 17

Hoping for Nato

To the innocents caught up in Kosovo's mad little war, the universal hope was that the jets in the sky were the first sorties promised by Nato, although the Russians had been pleading with the West in Brussels to put military action on hold and try diplomacy. Page 15

Recession hits Japan

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

GLOBAL stock markets slumped yesterday as Japan, the world's second largest economy, was announced as being officially in recession.

The Japanese economy shrunk by 1.3 per cent in the first three months of this year following a contraction of 0.4 per cent in the previous three.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged another 100 points during afternoon trading. In London, the FTSE 100 index fell 82.7 points to close at 5,769.8. On Thursday it fell 134.9.

The loss of confidence has Business, page 27

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Watch and pray, say the World Cup churches

By RUTH GLEDHILL RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

IF WORLD CUP supporters won't go to church, the Church must go to the World Cup, say church congregations and clergy throughout the land. Faced with the prospect of the World Cup final on a Sunday evening and other Sunday matches over the next few weeks, many churches are setting up video screens.

Congregations will be invited to watch and pray while wives' activities have been arranged for women alienated by the mania.

Church liturgy has been adapted with football dramas, a reading called *Sporting Chances*, a World Cup video and sports tracks to supplement the psalms. A "football song" has been sent to some congregations which, to the tune of *Match of the Day*, invites worshippers to put their trust in Jesus "till you reach the promised land".

St Andrew's Church of England parish in Oxford is screening all three of England's first-round matches in an ante-room and will show the final in the nave of the Victorian church after evening worship. Keith Metcalfe, youth worker, said: "The idea is to let people see that the church is not a place of boring, long sermons."

Chipping Camden Baptist Church in Gloucestershire is screening England games and Holy Trinity Idle in Bradford is organising a five-a-side tournament and a World Cup service.

In Essex, St John's in Buckhurst Hill, where the Rev Alan Comfort, a former professional footballer, is the team vicar, will screen five matches in its church hall.

Stuart Weir of Christians in Sport said: "Churches can either hold a normal evening service and condemn the sinners who stay at home, or they can be creative and admit that everyone wants to watch the match."

World Cup, pages 8, 9, 33, 35-39

That one should make the run-up to the wedding most enjoyable, Sir

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Court clears man of murder after 23 years in jail

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A 69-YEAR-OLD man who became Britain's second-longest-serving victim of a miscarriage of justice walked free 23 years after being convicted of a murder that the Court of Appeal decided yesterday never took place.

Patrick Nicholls, who has suffered a stroke and a broken hip, leaned heavily on a walking stick as his self-styled "obstinate" campaign for justice finally ended with an apology from three judges.

The former showman, who used to organise entertainments on Brighton Pier with his father, could have been freed on parole ten years ago if he had been prepared to say he was guilty of murdering an elderly widowed friend. Quashing the conviction, Lord Justice Roch said: "We wish to express this court's great regret that as a result of what has now been shown to be flawed evidence, he was wrongly convicted and spent such a very long time in jail."

Mr Nicholls was imprisoned for life in 1975 for the murder of Gladys Heath, 74, who died of a heart attack at her home in Worthing. Mr Nicholls has always maintained that he found her at the bottom of the stairs but two pathologists, both now dead, concluded she had been suffocated and beaten about the face.

Mr Nicholls was cleared by the Court of Appeal after new evidence from John Crane, an Irish state pathologist, and the widow's facial injuries were found to be probably caused by her fall.

Detective Superintendent Laurie Finlay, who saw Mrs Heath's fresh body at home and heard the post-mortem examination results, believed that she died of natural causes. He gave a detailed statement to lawyers which helped to clear Mr Nicholls. He was in the court yesterday to see the outcome.

Victim of 'flawed evidence' weeps as he meets officer who believed in his innocence

"It must be terrible to be wrongly convicted of anybody's murder," he said outside the courtroom. "But what must it be like to be convicted of a murder which never happened? I feel very sorry for Mr Nicholls that his mother did not see this day. I am entitled to see the sequel."

In an emotional scene in the court building, the policeman and the ex-convict met for the first time. Mr Nicholls weeping as he shook the hand of the man who helped to free him. In a poignant prepared statement read outside the court, Mr Nicholls thanked a list of supporters, beginning with his dead mother.

Surrounded by supporters at a press conference at the London Irish Centre later, Mr Nicholls said: "They have taken a third of my life, haven't they?"

He always believed his name would be cleared but felt sad for the innocent people he has left behind. "You can always tell an innocent man in prison, you can spot them a mile off, they seem to carry an aura," said Mr Nicholls.

Born in Hamstead, North London, Mr Nicholls was the son of an Irish publican who ran the celebrated Spaniards Inn near the Heath before becoming a seaside entrepreneur. During a colourful life, Mr Nicholls, who has a chirpy Cockney accent and charming dry humour, fathered 11 children in three different women.

As he was shunted between prisons, he became well known for protesting his innocence, teaching himself law to advise other inmates, and communicating via "dead letters" and whispered messages on the grapevine of lifers who say they are not guilty.

He quickly befriended Paddy Hill, one of the Birmingham Six who, as soon as he acquired his own freedom, began campaigning to exonerate Mr Nicholls. His mother, Ida Nicholls, who always believed her son was innocent, continued to visit him in prison until she died last summer.

His father, who also backed him, died years earlier but the rest of the family have long been estranged and he now regards Mr Hill as his next-of-kin. Mr Nicholls has been in failing health, breaking a hip several years ago, suffering arthritis and having a stroke last November.

On February 22 this year Mr Hill had a telephone call from the Court of Appeal saying Mr Nicholls had given his North London flat as a bail address. That cold, wet afternoon at Albany jail on the Isle of Wight Mr Nicholls was given £84 in cash and allowed to bring from his cell a holdall containing his shaving gear, personal letters and photographs.

He had none of his medication and the ball which stroke victims are encouraged to squeeze in their hands to aid recuperation was confiscated because it was prison property. After 23 years behind walls and bars, he was put alone into a taxi and left to catch the ferry to the mainland where Mr Hill met him, a confused and shambolic figure who had to be helped off the boat.

"He was shaking a like a leaf, he was blue around the lips and there was no colour in his face," said Mr Hill. "I thought he was going to die."



Free at last: Patrick Nicholls leaving the High Court yesterday. His health is failing

Blunder by eminent scientists to blame

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

PATRICK NICHOLLS spent 23 years in jail thanks to blunders by two eminent pathologists, the Court of Appeal decided yesterday. Two years ago the Home Office turned down a request for his case to be reviewed. Now Mr Nicholls may take his case for recompense to the European Courts in what could be a record settlement.

Only one other prisoner freed in a miscarriage of justice case has spent longer in jail. Paul Andrews, a former boy soldier, was released after 25 years recently for the alleged murder of a girl.

Yesterday, at the end of a three-hour hearing, Lord Justice Roch, sitting with Mr Justice Bennett and Mr Justice Thomas, ruled that pathology evidence used by both the prosecution and the defence in Mr Nicholls's case was fatally flawed.

Mr Nicholls was accused at his trial of assaulting and partly suffocating Gladys Heath. She died of a fatal heart attack brought on by the assault. Yesterday the court was told that new evidence from two more pathologists now suggested that Mrs Heath, who had a serious heart condition, may not have been attacked but died from natural causes.

Counsel for the Crown Prosecution Service accepted that the pathology evidence was no longer safe and that there were other mistakes which might have occurred over disclosure of material which would not happen today. Medical and police notes which might have raised the possibility that no murder had taken place, were not passed to counsel for the Crown or Mr Nicholls.

Giving the ruling, Lord Justice Roch said the jury in the original case should not feel any blame.

Mr Nicholls, who knew the widow and had found her, was afraid to contact police because he had been in trouble with them before.

Consultant guilty of serious misconduct over death of girl, 10

By MARK HENDERSON

A CONSULTANT anaesthetist whose ten-year-old patient died during dental treatment was yesterday ruled guilty of serious professional misconduct by the General Medical Council but escaped being struck off the medical register.

The council's professional conduct committee ruled that Tapas Basu, 59, must not work with children or outside a hospital for three years because of errors he made in the care of Kate Dougal in 1996. Kate died of heart failure under general anaesthetic administered by Dr Basu at the Long Eaton dental surgery, Derbyshire, during surgery on two front teeth broken in a fall.

He failed to use vital monitoring equipment or to make a proper attempt to resuscitate her when her heart stopped, and had not read the latest guidelines on dental anaesthesia. He was cleared of failing to make adequate pre-operative checks and operating without sufficient assistance.

Professor Sir Herbert Duthie, chairman of the committee, said: "Patients, and in the case of children their parents, entrust doctors with their lives and well-being. They are entitled to expect that doctors will keep their medical knowledge and skills up to date and that they will act appropriately in an emergency. The facts found show that you [Dr Basu] failed to provide an adequate standard of practice in this tragic case." Kate's parents, Patricia Dougal, 31, and Eddie Quinn, 33, said in a statement: "Over the last 2½ years we have been through things that no family should have to go through. Not only have we lost a

daughter and a sister to James, Chantelle and Daniel, but no one could tell us how or why and no one seemed accountable. We have spent this week reliving the worst days of our lives, but we believe that we have done right by Kate.

"We believe that the GMC have conducted a very thorough inquiry and have listened to all the evidence carefully and independently. They have made findings of fact which prove to us that Kate need not have died. "We are pleased with the verdict as Dr Basu will not now be able to practise on children for at least three years. We are grateful that the GMC have recognised the need to make this direction."

They hoped the Department of Health would investigate the risks of allowing general anaesthesia to be practised outside hospitals. Dr Basu, who has 28 days to appeal, offered his condolences to Kate's family.

When Kate suffered heart

failure ten minutes into the operation, Dr Basu did not immediately recognise the symptoms and then chose to ventilate the girl while the dentist administered heart massage. He did not use the theatre's defibrillator to restart her heart with an electric shock.

Paramedics told the hearing they were amazed at the poor standard of resuscitation under way when they arrived, and expert witnesses said Dr Basu missed a 92-second "window of opportunity" in which Kate's life might have been saved. Dr Basu did not attach Kate to an electrocardiogram until her heart rate began to drop.

Dr Basu is currently employed as a consultant at Neath General Hospital in South Wales, where he is also a postgraduate organiser at the Department of Anaesthetics. His counsel, Philip Gaisford, said he no longer undertook dental anaesthesia and had qualified for an advanced life support certificate.



Kate Dougal died under anaesthetic from Tapas Basu

Widow of MP wins hospital damages

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE widow of a Labour MP has won an eight-year battle for compensation from a hospital on Merseyside for discharging her husband 15 minutes before he suffered a fatal heart attack.

Lynda Carr has been awarded £250,000 against South Sefton Health Authority after they failed to prevent the death of her husband Michael Carr, MP for Bootle. The MP, 43, had been in Parliament only two months in July 1990 when he complained of chest pains at the end of a constituency meeting. He was taken to Walton General Hospital where a junior doctor diagnosed hyperventilation.

He was sent home without treatment and, as soon as he arrived there, suffered a devastating heart attack. The Merseyside coroner ordered a police investigation but the Director of Public Prosecutions concluded that there was not sufficient evidence to proceed.

Mrs Carr, who claimed that prompt medical treatment could have saved her husband's life, pursued a legal claim. The health authority refused to admit liability.

The case was due to be heard at Liverpool High Court later this month but the action was halted after the health authority agreed to pay compensation to Mrs Carr. Lynda Brown, her solicitor, said: "It has taken eight years to finally obtain justice for Mrs Carr."

"She has now received proper compensation in respect of her late husband's loss of earnings and her own loss of pension rights. I hope that Lynda and the whole family can now try to rebuild their lives."

Head girl delays birth for exams

By ROBIN YOUNG

A SCHOOL head girl aged 16 missed only two of her GCSE exams even though she spent 24 hours in labour in hospital giving birth to an 8lb 4oz son while they were going on.

Kate Goddard postponed having her labour induced though she was ten days overdue because she had an English exam to complete. Three days after giving birth, she returned to St Hugh's School in Grantham, Lincolnshire, to sit her maths exam. She

completed six examinations, missing only French and Science, and yesterday she was at a business studies exam.

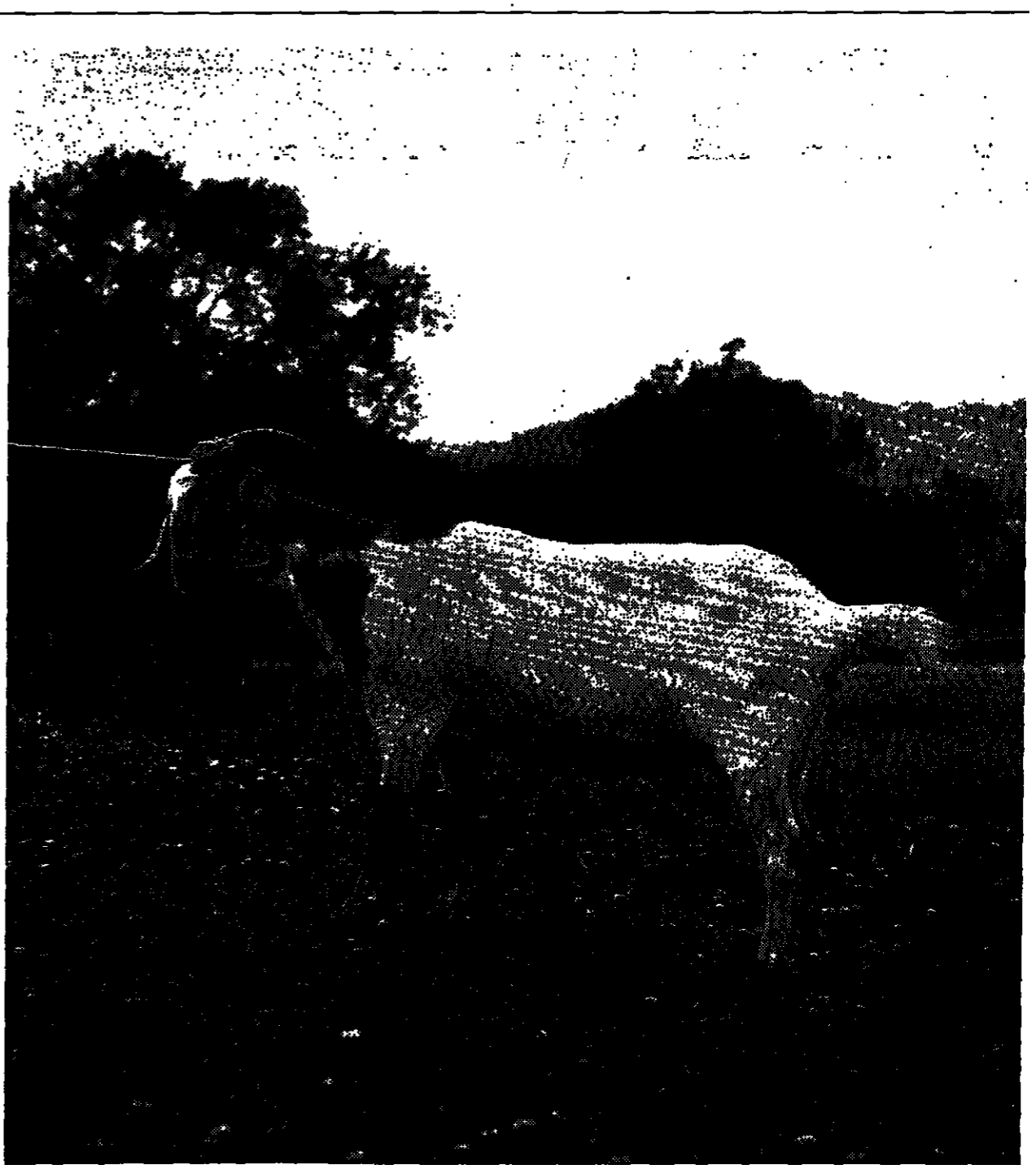
Miss Goddard said: "I was determined to complete as many exams as possible because I want to be a teacher. The doctor said I had to go into hospital, but I had to hold on for English because it's my best subject."

She is now studying for A-level English and A-level leisure and tourism. Miss Goddard's mother, Sue, a 32-year-old nursing home assistant, was also a mother at 16, but was ordered to

leave school when her teachers heard she was pregnant. She said yesterday: "Katie's school has been just great."

The school's deputy headmaster, Paul Kitson, said: "We are delighted that everything went well and are pleased Katie decided to carry on with her exams. She has had the foresight to plan for her own and her son's futures. There are a lot of opportunities open to her."

Miss Goddard said the baby's father was a school friend, but added: "I do not have anything to do with him now."



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Family break-ups make grandmother the novel choice

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

GRANDMOTHERS are replacing parents as the most important family figure in modern children's books. Mothers and fathers are being written out or presented as scary, busy or plain inadequate, leaving assertive yet loveable grans to rule the family roost.

The unlikely heroes of a raft of new books come every shape and size. Recent examples include a chain-smoking grandmother who rides a Harley-Davidson; a grim, prim "Nan" who cares for her feckless daughter's child; a lovestruck "granny" who elopes with the man next door and a kindly ballroom-dancing "gran" who never stops chattering.

Nick Tucker, lecturer in child psychology at the University of Sussex and a book reviewer for 20 years, said that young women were increasingly being portrayed as feckless or incompetent, forced to rely heavily on their own mothers to bring up their offspring. Alternately they were career women, frequently absent from their children's lives.

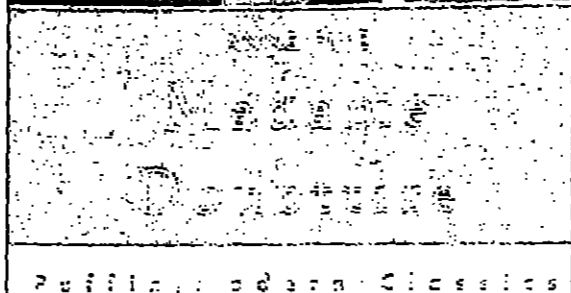
"Where there is a story with a 'flaky' mother, the child tends to identify more with the granny than with the parent. This is echoing something that is happening in society, where grandparents are now doing quite a lot of the bringing up of children either because of divorce and family breakdown or because both parents are at work," Mr Tucker said.



The grandmother in *Loudmouth Louis*, by Anne Fine, the author of *Madame Doubtfire*, which became the film *Mrs Doubtfire*, is the main carer and role model for Louis, a little boy whose constant chattering drives everyone crazy. One scene in the book, to be published by Puffin in September, shows Gran wittering away to herself — or "chuntering" as Louis's mother calls it — while she tidies up the house.

"... now I'm putting on my woolly and, whoops, got stuck and it's all gone dark, and I can't find the hole, and now all the rest of me's stuck too, and I can't find my way out and... there! Now the kitchen's looking fresh and tidy. And when your mum and dad get home after a hard day's work, I think it's nice for them not to have to walk into a bomb-site."

In Nina Bawden's *Granny The Pag*, published last year, 12-year-old Catriona lives with her eccentric grandmother, a psychiatrist who wears dirty black skirts, chain smokes and rides a motorcycle. Catriona fights like mad when her shallow luvvie parents, both the stars of a television soap, decide they want their daughter back. Mr Tucker, who is delivering a lecture on children's literature at the annual conference of the National Childbirth Trust in Southport this weekend, said the high divorce rate meant that the traditional nuclear family could no longer be taken for granted by children. While parents might feel happy presenting child-



Modern books for children have grandmothers replacing parents as the most important figure



Modern books for children have grandmothers replacing parents as the most important figure

Classics graded by difficulty for school reading

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

CHILDREN'S classics such as *The Owl and the Pussycat* and *Peter Rabbit* have been graded for difficulty on a new reading list designed to ensure that primary schools make the best use of the new literacy hour demanded by the Government.

Academics at the London University Institute of Education have assessed 3,000 books widely available in primary schools to give teachers guidance on those most suitable for the children. Although most are relatively new titles, the list includes a number of old favourites.

Julia Douetil, a co-ordinator of the Reading Recovery National Network, which provides extra help for six year olds who struggle to read, said: "There is a lot of research that suggests that children who have difficulty with reading tend to give up when texts are too hard for them. If you can match texts more accurately, children become more confident and make more progress."

The 3,000 books have been divided into ten bands, beginning with familiar titles such as the *Spot* series. The top level, pitched at the reading level of the average eight year old, includes modern favourites such as *Dogger*, by Shirley Hughes.

Other classics which feature on the list are *Peter and the Wolf* and *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*, and *The Tortoise and the Hare*.

The books are grades on 11 different factors, including the amount of print on each page, range and familiarity of vocabulary, illustrations and story structure. "The guide for teachers says: 'It is the complex interactions between these and other features, together with each child's personal experience, that determine whether a particular child will be able to read a specific text successfully first time round.'"

A new study by the National Foundation for Educational Research has found that many schools have already introduced the literacy hour. Of 95 local authorities responding to the survey, more than half had some schools operating the hour and only 15 had made no progress on the Government's initiative.

Book Bands for Guided Reading (London University Institute of Education: £12)

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THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 13 1998

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Nicholas Wood insists there is involvement

TWO senior Conservative activists face expulsion from their local party over their amid claims that they were taken over by the Tories.

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Tories face sack in row over church 'takeover'

Nicholas Wood says local party insists there is nothing sinister in involvement of fundamentalists

TWO senior Conservative activists face expulsion from their local party next week amid claims that it has been taken over by religious zealots. Tory chiefs in Brentwood, Essex, are to meet on Thursday to vote on a demand that the rebel duo be expelled after they publicly attacked "ecumenism" by 200 members of a fundamentalist Christian church.

Peniel Pentecostal Church is run by a self-styled bishop, Michael Reid, a former policeman and insurance salesman who boasts that he performs miracles at his evangelical services. His healing claims are backed up by Tory churchgoers who say they have seen them with their own eyes and that they have been verified by independent doctors.

Peniel has a congregation of around 800 people who are encouraged to donate 10 per cent of their incomes to it. It has recently purchased a £1.75 million Georgian mansion to house the school it runs alongside its church. Mr Reid drives a Mercedes-Benz with a personalised number plate, B2 PPC (Bishop to Peniel Pentecostal Church). He declined to be interviewed by *The Times* but did issue a statement denying he or his church was attempting a political takeover and insisting it was a bona fide Christian body.

Anne Brown, his press officer, added that a Sunday newspaper report portraying him as a man who encouraged the spanking of women and children was a "load of rubbish". An innocent joke about women's bottoms at a Mother's Day service, recorded on video, had been taken out of context. The Peniel school did not use corporal punishment.

Tony Galbraith, a Tory councillor and chemistry lecturer, and Tony Donnelly, a company director and former treasurer, face the axe after allegedly urging local people to abandon the Conservatives in last month's local elections because of infiltration by members of a "cult".

The leadership of the Brentwood and Ongar Conservative Party, including Eric Pickles, the MP, insist that there is nothing sinister about the involvement of members of the church in its affairs.

The dispute centres on a sudden influx of 200 church members earlier this year. They joined their local Pilgrim's Hatch branch ward — near the well-protected church and school — and then ousted the Tory old guard on the committee.

The controversy surrounding the church's political influence has damaged the Tories in Brentwood and Ongar. People passing the electronically controlled black gates guarding the church said that



A leaflet advertising church services, with miracles

they found Peniel a "scary" influence and that they had shied away from supporting the Tories in the local elections.

The party lost one of the three seats it was defending. Andrew Varney, the Tory agent in Brentwood, said it had done "very, very badly" and that there was a "fair degree of suspicion" about the church among electors.

Nicole Spicer, 24, a local resident, said: "It has definitely put me off voting for the

Tories. It's getting like America with religion infiltrating politics."

Tory bosses have welcomed the influx of church members and maintain that many of them are rightwingers with a strong commitment to the party's self-help ethos.

Mr Donnelly claimed that Mr Pickles had become the "prisoner" of the church members and that he was unable to confront them for fear they would deselect him. Dr Galbraith said he was puzzled by

the MP's stance. "I have seen Eric Pickles on TV saying they are just the same as any other church, that it would be no different if a large number of Anglicans had joined. But I don't think that is true. This church — it is marginal whether you call them a cult — are extreme Christian fundamentalists."

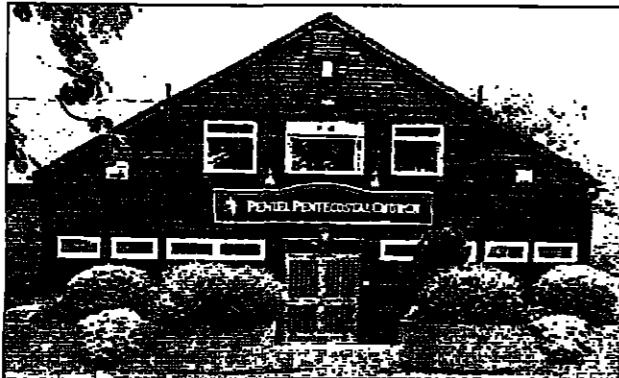
Mr Varney said that church members had only taken over the Pilgrim's Hatch ward when the existing leadership walked out. The executive committee, which will rule on the rebels on Thursday, had only six "church" Tories among its 55 members.

Mr Varney said he believed Dr Galbraith and Mr Donnelly should be expelled. He added: "If you want to go public and attack us, you should resign first."

Mr Varney, a former director of the Tories' southeast region, said he had seen no sign of a secret agenda. "I am more comfortable with many of these people than many of those hard-bitten people who have been around for years."



Michael Reid, the Peniel Church "bishop" who is said to possess healing powers



Complaints about the church, above, could mean two expulsions from the local Tory party, below



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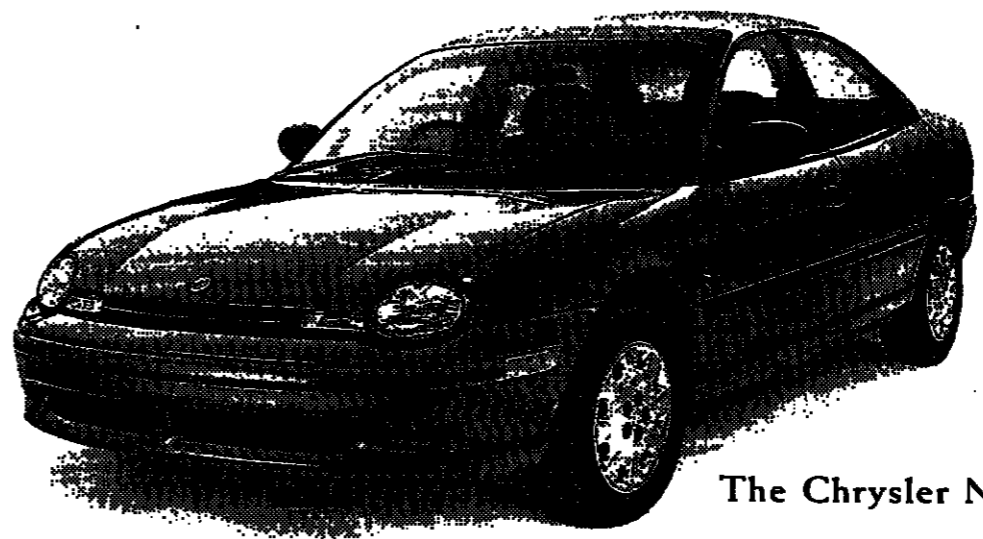
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Argentine hooligans heading for France

Organised gangs have received free tickets and travel despite police efforts, reports Gabriella Gamini

AT LEAST 150 known Argentine football hooligans were reported to be travelling to France despite a recent police clampdown on organised mobs that forced the suspension of club football in the country for weeks. Members of gangs known as *barrabras* have reportedly managed to get free tickets and travel from the largest clubs despite efforts by police to confiscate the passports of known hooligans. Some were quoted in the Argentine media yesterday as saying they were heading to France in time to confront England fans at the game against Tunisia on Monday. The *barrabras* are organised groups of thugs who stir crowd violence and hold mafia control over management in most of Argentina's local sides. When

Argentina was ruled by military dictators, the Government used the gangs to attack pro-democracy demonstrations at the national team's overseas games. Since the return to democracy in 1983, the mobs have been used as hit squads to intimidate unions or championship organisers. About 80 people have been killed in football-related violence in five years. Three weeks ago, three fans were killed in a shootout between gangs and the police outside a stadium in Buenos Aires. A judge suspended local championships until all the clubs guaranteed tighter security. Police said they had confiscated the passports of at least 200 known hooligans. Other measures included banning them from grounds. However, clubs issued free packages to



but some of the other players were pressurised by the *barrabras* threats. The former Argentine international Osvaldo Ardiles said: "Several club authorities in Argentina have ignored the Government clamp down and given out free tickets. The *barrabras* have a tight connection with the club managers who need the hooligans' support in elections." Luis Barrionuevo, president of Chacarita Football Club, a second division side which boasts the most violent *barrabras*, said his club had sent a translator so that the 30 who got tickets from him "would not rob and misbehave so much". Jack Straw yesterday urged the England team to set a good example to its supporters. The Home Secretary said: "The players are sometimes not alive to the examples for good or for ill that they set. It is extremely important that behaviour should not be provocative."

Letters, page 23 Sport, pages 33 & 35-39



God squad: the Jamaicans hold a locker-room prayer session before each game

Reggae Boyz pray that God wears a Jamaican shirt

By RUTH GLEDHILL

ARMS around each other, heads bowed in prayer, the men say: "Yea, though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil." This is not a Baptist church

in the American mid-West but "prayer time" for Jamaica's "Reggae Boyz", underdogs of the World Cup, who are hoping that the hand of God can propel them to success in France. Coached by a born-again Christian and with their own "spiritual adviser" in tow, they see themselves in strictly Biblical terms, as latter-day Davids facing the Goliaths of world football. They pray together in the locker-room before every match and worship as a team on Sundays.

joining the preaching profession after his football career is over. The team has even applied Christian forgiveness to its own Gazza-style mercurial genius, maverick striker Walter Boyd, brought up in the ghetto and now a national hero. After sending him into exile for more than a year for ignoring instructions, missing training sessions and riding a motorbike, Simoes persuaded him to deliver a public apology and restored him to the team two weeks ago.

The Brazilian coach, René Simoes, sports the words "Jesus Saves" on his kit. He signs souvenir footballs "Jesus loves you". Congregations back in Jamaica have been coached to say special prayers each Sunday to help the Reggae Boyz against Croatia tomorrow, and in subsequent matches against Argentina and Japan. The charismatic evangelical Christianity common in Jamaica has been a driving force in shaping and motivating the team, according to Channel 4's documentary tonight. The words: "Thank you father, in Jesus' name," signal the kick-off at home matches.

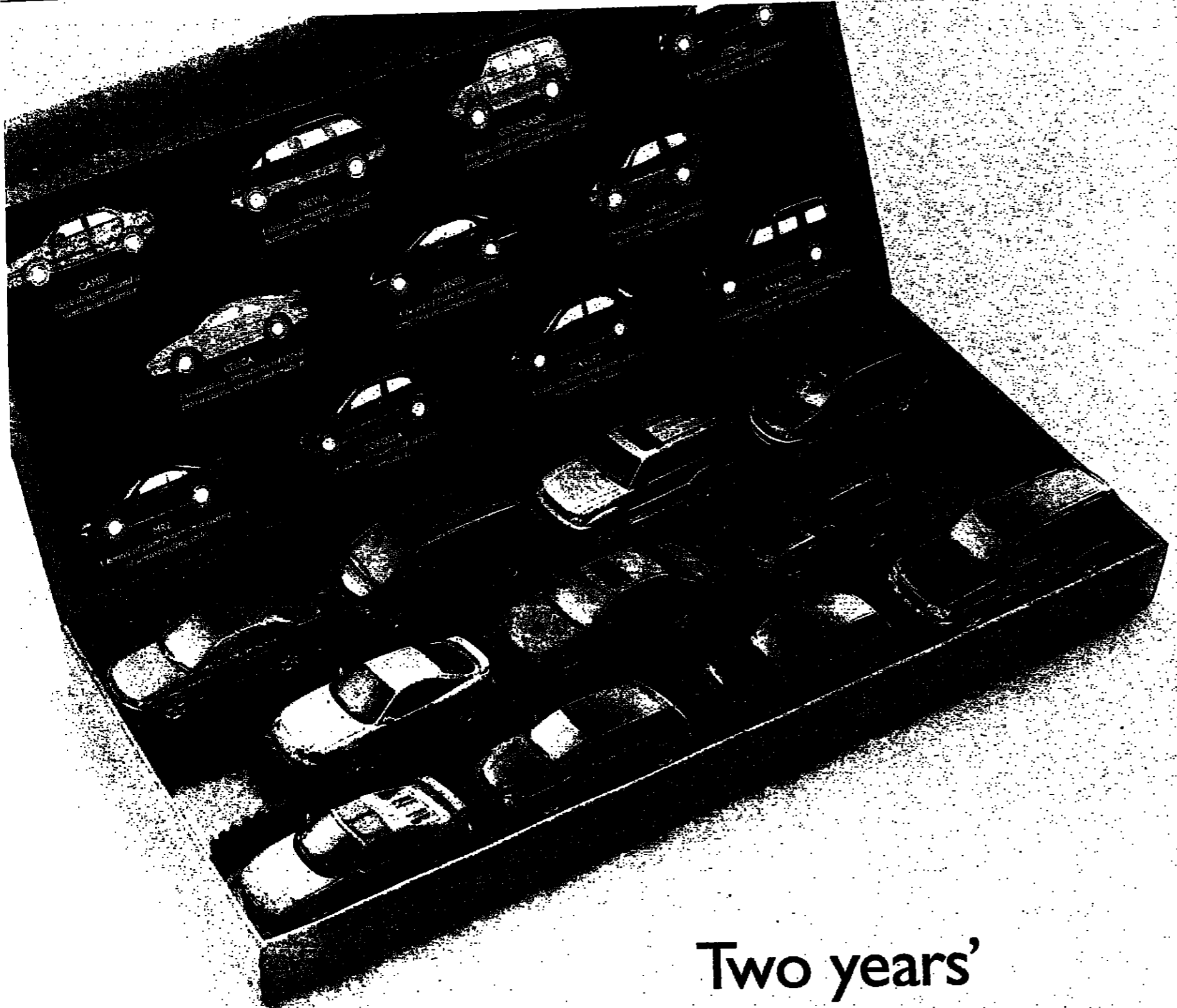
All matches are dedicated to God, and success in France will be credited to Him as well. "If we work hard and with God's help, we can do anything," said the Rev Al Miller, who brings in rap and reggae gospel musicians to inspire the players. "Usually on Sunday morning off camp we just have a devotional time together."

One player, Linval "Rodie" Dixon, who lives in a one-bedroom bungalow with his extended family on the outskirts of Kingston, is consider-

He added: "If we are going to overcome a strong opponent there must be unity. What we must have is one team, so the men are going out there as one man, one body." Simoes, who has also coached in Portugal and Saudi Arabia, said: "This is a mission, it is not a football game." The Reggae Boyz, today on Channel 4 at 10.50pm.



Exaltation: the players celebrating another goal



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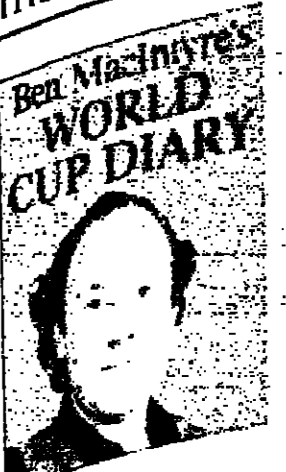


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Ben MacIntyre's WORLD CUP DIARY

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Ben MacIntyre's WORLD CUP DIARY



L'Etat, c'est le ref, for now

LAURENT FABIUS, President of the French National Assembly, this week solemnly handed legislative power to the 66 World Cup referees in formal recognition that the workings of French democracy will be eclipsed by football for the next month.

M. Fabius, the former Socialist Prime Minister, ushered the refs to the government benches in the French Parliament and told them in ringing tones: "The success of the greatest sporting event of the end of the century rests upon your shoulders. You, you are the incarnation of the rule of law."

Sir Michael Jay, Britain's Ambassador to France, faced a tricky question at a briefing before the first match when a Scottish reporter asked "How drunk do you have to be to get arrested in France?" The ambassador said this was a matter for the police. The Tartan Army has impressed Le Monde: "These fans know how to party," the newspaper observed. "They have turned it into an art."

In the past month, French customs officers have confiscated no less than 170,802 items of counterfeit World Cup memorabilia: 7,200 Chinese-made trainers, 8,000 Pakistani-made footballs, 27,080 travelling clocks with unauthorised "France 98" logos, to name but a few.

A team of officers travelled to Clairfontaine, where the French team is training, to show them some of the haul and offer tips on how to tell illegal from genuine merchandise. This, presumably, was to avoid the embarrassment of a player trotting out to the pitch in a fake shirt by accident.



Beach ball: South African fans brave the Mistral and join the locals on a Marseilles beach to watch a big-screen broadcast of Chile's 2-2 draw with Italy on Thursday

Beach fans get the wind up

I am ticketless, have nowhere to stay and my schoolboy French barely stretches to buying a kilo of peaches. But I am going to the World Cup. Fans without tickets have been told by Jack Straw to stay at home. But like thousands of others I simply can't resist the opportunity to go and have a look. Of course, in the back of all our minds there is the deluded hope that we might come across a ticket, but if we don't, we'll settle for joining in the international knees-up.

At the Eurostar terminal at Waterloo I immediately feel conspicuous by my Englishness. There are few English fans heading for France just yet. There are, however, Americans, Africans, Brazilians and Chileans. And legions of Scots. One colossal, kilted, ginger-wigged character hears my Sassenach accent as we are checking in and gives me a sly look as he points at my over-stuffed rucksack. "You look like you're going away for a month," he says, professing bafflement. "I am," I reply

defiantly. "Oh, yeah, England in the final against Brazil on July 12," he says. He concedes that Scotland are unlikely to be there either, but they will beat the world at drinking. "There are 50 bars in the Stade de France and I intend to have a drink in every one." He also boasts - absurdly but apparently with a straight face - that he plans to do his bit for international harmony by pleasuring a woman from each of the 32 competing nations.

In Paris on Wednesday, the only place on my itinerary where it has been possible to book a room, the drinking is heroic, but the atmosphere overwhelmingly friendly.

I watch the opening game on a big screen by the stadium with thousands of screaming Scots and Brazilians who were also ticketless and didn't want to pay £1,200 to a tout. The commentators, whom it is impossible to hear, are no doubt full of the old clichés about the match and the Latino-Celtic jamboree all over Paris being a great advertisement for the game. And who can argue with

Jack Straw warned them off, but many ticketless fans just had to try their luck. With an overstuffed rucksack and a hopeful expression, Damian Whitworth set off to France 98



them? My only quibble is that grinning Scotsmen show us rather more of what they keep under their kilts than we require.

At Gare de Lyon the next day, the trains heading for Marseilles are packed. France are to play South Africa and home fans are heading south. I meet a couple of fellow Englishmen on the train who have tickets for Monday's game but nowhere to stay. In our corner of the train there are also an Italian, and two Frenchmen. Wine comes out and a huge, stinking cheese and there is earnest football talk; would Pelé, Socrates and Zinedine Zidane have become

such great players with more mundane names?

In Marseilles I wander down to the port and walk straight into a smack in the face. I have encountered the side of life in this part of the world that could pose the biggest threat to the pleasure of English fans arriving here this weekend: Le Mistral. The wind is pummeling the seafront and could last for several days.

Down on the Plages du Prado, volleyball and football have been abandoned. The giant screen, on which thousands of ticketless England fans are expected to watch Monday's game, is somehow

still upright but those trying to watch Italy against Chile are having to be grimly determined about it and many give up at half time. I try it for a bit. Sitting on a French beach watching Italy play Chile surrounded by South Africans and Tunisians it should be a classic World Cup Moment. But it is impossible to keep the beer in his glass and the sand storm out of my eyes.

After a late cancellation, I eventually obtained a room. So did most of South Africa. The hotel was heaving with South Africans of every hue, an impromptu band hammering away and people partying in the lobby.

It was such a good party that I am woken in the morning by the hotel manager asking me to come to another room down the corridor. He says he can't easily explain on the phone what the problem is: "It is very strange." It certainly is. I find the manager with a black South African man who says that he called the police after waking up to find that he was wearing my clothes. Indeed

my clothes and my wallet are lying on the floor.

The man says that he had come upstairs after the party and must have mistaken my room for his. The door, which is certainly tricky to close, had been mistakenly left open and he had come in and found me asleep. Why then, I ask, hadn't he just crept out again? He has the appearance at least of being consumed by embarrassment. "I was naked." The horrifying questions this information raises are too numerous to contemplate. "I just can't remember how I came to be naked, but I was drunk and I needed some clothes and I put them on. And I am really sorry. I am an honest man. I have not taken anything."

This last is true. But I leave deeply suspicious. Later I am having difficulty with my key when the door opens and the same man is standing there. "You again! What are you doing now?" I shout. He points to the room number. This time I have mistaken the room. "Hey," he says as I disappear down the corridor. "This is the World Cup, yes?"

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FROM ADRIAN LEE IN MARSEILLES

IN HOTELS and restaurants, executive boxes, VIP suites and aboard a Mediterranean cruise liner, a second World Cup is being fought.

Millions of pounds are being spent on hospitality in the competition for corporate supremacy. More than one in ten of the 2.5 million tickets for the tournament have gone to its 45 official sponsors, who have each paid £20 million for the privilege. It is estimated that 1,500 of the 60,000 crowd at England's opening game, on Monday, will be corporate clients on all-frills packages.

For sheer style, the kit and boot manufacturer Umbro is leading the way. Yesterday, a cruise liner hired by the company, which sponsors the England team, was heading along the Riviera and will dock in Marseilles on Monday. The 350 people on board, including company directors and Umbro's best clients, will be given tickets for the game.

A typical five-course meal on the liner - preceded by cocktails with the captain - consists of chowder, shrimps and duck, washed down with fine wines. Richard Moore, of Umbro, said: "As a major sports company, this is something we have to do. It is different to hiring a hotel."

Coca-Cola has all but taken over Marseilles' Mercure hotel for scores of its South African employees and clients. Yesterday they went on a boat trip before attending their country's match against France. They need not spend a centime during their five-day stay. It is money well spent, according to Coca-Cola: "Every ticket given away has to deliver value to the business."

Adidas will spend £40 million on marketing, including corporate hospitality, during the finals. Most of the 1,000 tickets its sponsorship has bought will be given to clients. The company has booked tables at some of the best restaurants in Paris to host champagne dinners before matches. "The World Cup is the perfect occasion to generate goodwill," said a spokesman.

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Film hails ladies who loved Mussolini



Mussolini: bluffed about British alliance

Franco Zeffirelli is recreating the world of English expats who admired an Italy where the trains ran on time, writes Richard Owen

Deep in the Tuscan hills near Florence, Franco Zeffirelli, the film director, is re-creating a forgotten episode in Britain's long relationship with Italy: the courage, gaiety and folly of the indomitable band of expatriate British women who stayed on under Fascism during the Second World War and placed their trust — mistakenly — in Benito Mussolini, the dictator.

Tea With Mussolini, which Zeffirelli began shooting in and around Florence this week, is also a re-creation of his own childhood. He has fond memories of the English grandes dames who dominated polite society in Florence in the 1930s — the creators of the original Chianti — and who, after the death of his mother, adopted him and brought him up "as a little English gentleman" between the ages of eight and 13.

Some of them met Il Duce, who assured them that they were "very special people, and had nothing to worry about". In the film the haughty and imperious Lady Hester — Maggie Smith resplendent in a silk suit and pearls — meets the dictator for tea (hence the title) and is charmed. When the Fascist militia come to arrest and intern her, she is disbelieving, pointing to a framed portrait of herself with Mussolini on a side table. "I have diplomatic immunity," she informs the nonplussed police. "What will Il Duce say when he hears of this?"



Franco Zeffirelli has tried to recapture his childhood memories of the English community in Florence at the end of the 1930s as war loomed

working, crime was reduced, and the streets were clean," Zeffirelli said. "There were attacks on British people in the streets, but Mussolini played a double game: for a long time he kept the door open to a possible alliance with Britain. He did not finally enter the war irreversibly on Hitler's side until June 1940."

about the expats". Those who had not already left were interned as enemy aliens at the nearby Tuscan hill town of San Gimignano, still much favoured by present-day British residents and visitors, including Tony Blair. "It was not much of a hardship. They had the time of their lives, with the town to themselves. They preserved San Gimignano's medieval towers, which the

Germans wanted to blow up as the Allies approached, because they made excellent observation posts. It was English ladies like Lady Hester who persuaded the German commander to leave the towers intact. He was so intimidated by them, he pretended to Berlin that he had run out of explosives."

The script is by John Mortimer, another latter-day Chianti resident, who read Zeffirelli's autobiography. "I felt I had to tell the story," Zeffirelli said. "Not just about myself, but about these extraordinary women who tried to resist the madness of war sweeping across Europe. They simply did not see why Italy and England could not still be friends just because a bunch of idiots had decided to go to war."

He said he hoped the film would help to educate Italians, who preferred not to think about the past. "Italians do not know enough about their own history." *Tea With Mussolini*, produced by Riccardo Tozzi, Frederick Muller and Clive Parsons for Medusa Films, will be distributed by Medusa in Italy, Goldwyn Films in the US and Universal in Britain.



Joan Plowright and Maggie Smith in *Tea With Mussolini*. The expat English ladies of Florence were nicknamed the Scorpions because of their biting wit at the tea table



Paula Jones risked all by ignoring her lawyers' advice

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

LAWYERS for Paula Jones begged her to reach a settlement with President Clinton last summer or risk ignominy in pursuing a sexual harassment claim that would ultimately fail, according to documents released yesterday. Gilbert Davis and Joseph Cammarata, in letters made public by a federal court in Little Rock, warned the former Arkansas state employee that if she turned down a \$700,000 (£429,000) settlement from the President's lawyers she would "snatch defeat from the jaws of victory".

Clinton demanded oral sex from her in a hotel when he was Governor of Arkansas, she apparently ignored salient advice from the two lawyers, who finally resigned when she insisted on having her day in court. They had given a warning that, without reaching a deal, her motive would appear to shift from one of defending her own reputation to proving that President Clinton "is a bad person". The lawyers wrote: "Our opponents may portray your refusal as a money-grubbing attempt to further develop this story for profitable book rights, and portray you as inspired and under the influence of right-wing Clinton-haters."

Tarantino accused of assault

New York: Quentin Tarantino, the hard man of America's film world who was accused recently by a fashion stylist of punching her in the face, has given himself up to police and could face trial (Tunku Varadarajan writes). The 35-year-old director is alleged to have inflicted a cut to the forehead of Lela Mwangi, 24, after getting into an argument with her boyfriend, Barron Claiborne, about race. According to Ms Mwangi, her boyfriend was discussing how blacks were portrayed in Hollywood films with Mr Tarantino. The director is next supposed to have said: "I'm surprised that while Americans accept Wesley Snipes, because he's so African-looking." The discussion became angry and Ms Mwangi says she was struck. She filed a criminal complaint and civil suit against Mr Tarantino and claims damages of \$20 million (£12 million). Mr Tarantino's lawyer said: "This is celebrity-stalking of the worst possible kind."



Jones: rejected offer of \$700,000 settlement

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Dacre accused in row over 'faked' Scots epic

By MAGNUS LINKLATER

LORD DACRE of Glanton, the historian once involved in the Hitler Diaries affair, is at the centre of another literary dispute. A new book accuses him of ignorance and prejudice for dismissing as fake the works of the 3rd-century bard, Ossian — revered by romantic Scots as the fountainhead of Celtic culture.

Lord Dacre has long maintained that Ossian never existed and that his epic poem, *Fingal*, was an 18th-century fraud. Now a Scottish historian, William Ferguson, claims that it was genuine.

The Identity of the Scottish Nation, published this week, re-examines the controversial research of an 18th-century Jacobite, James Macpherson, who, in 1760, claimed to have uncovered and translated Ossian's works. They revealed, he said, a hitherto unacknowledged civilisation in Scotland dating back to the Dark Ages.

Fingal, which Macpherson ascribed to Ossian, caused a sensation. The poet Thomas Gray called it "a treasure hid



The Hitler diaries historian is at the centre of an acrimonious new dispute over alleged literary forgery. Magnus Linklater reports

for ages". In Germany it was compared to Shakespeare and Homer. Napoleon took it to St Helena. Swedish kings were named after the poet. It is still being translated into Japanese and Russian.

There were, however, immediate suspicions. Samuel Johnson was among the first to raise doubts. He thought there were no ancient Gaelic manuscripts, and sent a Gaelic-speaking friend, William Shaw, to examine Macpherson's sources. The manuscripts seen by Shaw contained nothing traceable to Ossian, being mainly Irish genealogies and some material about 17th-century wars.

Soon, most English experts were dismissing the whole work as a fraud. Macpherson withdrew his manuscripts

and emigrated to Florida, and later to India where he made a fortune.

Ferguson says that Scots scholars increasingly believe that Macpherson did discover genuine Ossianic material. Johnson, he says, knew nothing about Gaelic sources.

Ferguson says that Macpherson collected authentic material which he wove together in epic style. "It was a very common thing in the 18th century to collect such material and piece it together," says Ferguson. "Robert Burns did it too. The consensus today is that Macpherson took bits and pieces of traditional Ossianic ballads, some of which are still extant, and cast them, with additions of his own, largely pastiches of Homer and Virgil, into epic form."

He claims that Lord Dacre has simply echoed Johnson's anti-Gaelic bias. "He has given new life to some old, blinkered, anti-Ossian views which modern research has long exploded. He reflects Johnson's English 'Scotophobia', then, as now, centred on London, where it is still an active ingredient of the metropolitan mind."

Lord Dacre is having none of this. "Neither I nor Dr Johnson were anti-Scots," he insists. "I had a Scotch nanny, and a Scotch governess. I went to school in Scotland. I spent 25 years in Scotland." He maintains that nothing so far published suggests a separate Highland tradition of Ossian going back to the 3rd century, and says that most of what Macpherson picked up in the Hebrides was of either 17th-century or Irish origin. Lord Dacre concedes, however, that Dr Johnson was wrong to have assumed there

was no written Gaelic before the 18th century. He was simply unaware of it.

"That, however, does not affect Macpherson's fallacious argument that Scotland was the original cultured centre of Gaelic literature and society, and that the Irish were a mere colony. He reversed history."

The onus of proof, he says, was on Macpherson, but he evaded it. "He was frightened of showing his manuscript to Irish scholars. They could have disproved it."

Lord Dacre believes that Macpherson forged the original fragments and constructed a Homeric epic. In the best



Macpherson: did he fake the poetry of Ossian?

tradition of fakes (and this was certainly true of the Hitler diaries), everyone wanted to believe it was true. "To what extent it was self-deception, to what extent it was deliberate is hard to say," Lord Dacre says. "As Johnson said himself, 'by a species of intellectual retrogression, one learns less as one reads more.'"

Such arguments infuriate Ferguson. "Dacre is up the creek if he believes all that," he exploded. "The point is there were Ossianic ballads, collected in Scotland, and that is what Macpherson based his work on. To say there was no such thing is asking for it."

Magical tour will keep its mystery

BRITAIN'S magicians took the wraps off their new £2 million centre of conjuring excellence yesterday — without revealing any tricks of the trade. The Magic Circle's London Centre for the Magic Arts includes three museums, a 30,000-volume library and theatre.

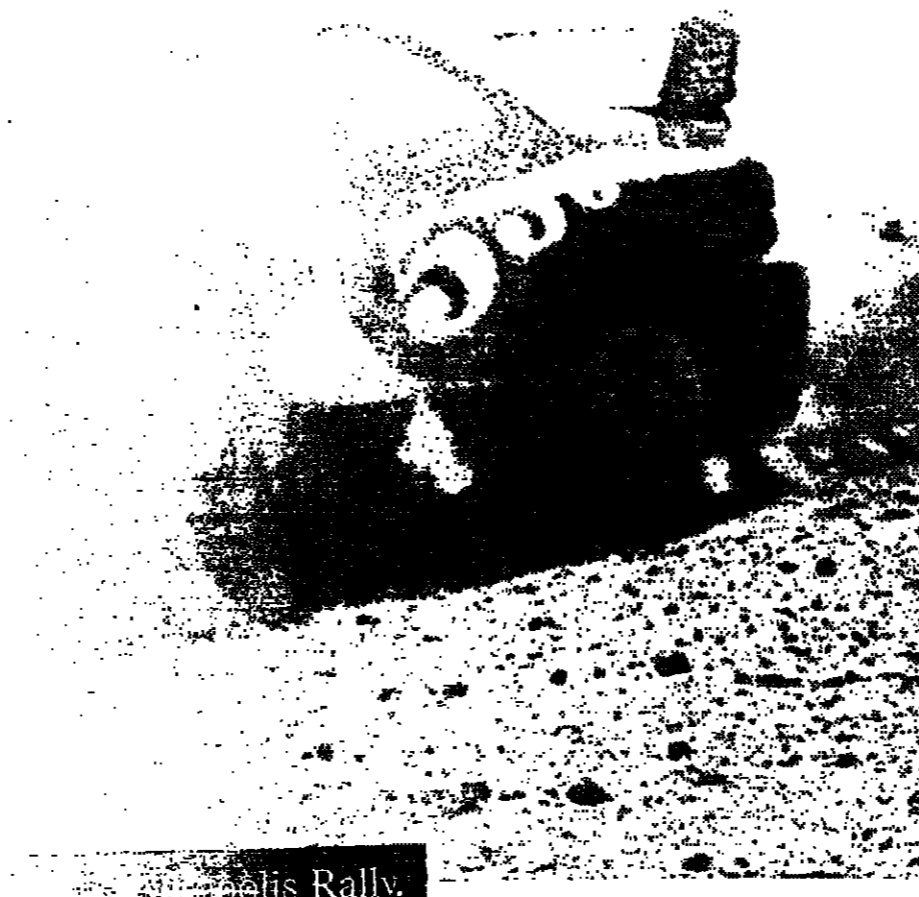
The public will be invited for the first time in the group's 93-year history to examine artefacts used by such illustrious figures as the Great

Houdini. The four-storey centre beside Euston station, partly funded by the National Lottery, will also stage performances by aspiring and fully fledged exponents of the art.

Derrick Speight, who stepped down as chairman of the Magic Circle last month, said: "You can look but you can't see the secrets of the tricks. To be entertaining, magic has to have mystery."

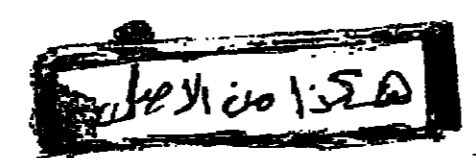
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Shy genius who changed world is feted at last

A MODEST widower quietly living out his retirement in suburban obscurity will this week be feted as a genius who launched the computer age.

Fifty years ago Tom Kilburn, now 76, pressed the button to spark into life the world's first programmable computer in an overheated and cramped workshop on the Manchester University campus. He and his collaborator, the late Sir Frederic Williams, led a small team who beat the Americans to develop the first successful electrostatic random access memory for the digital computer. The advance forms the cornerstone of modern digital electronics.

Professor Kilburn went on to make many more computers — lighter and more powerful than the Mark I machine or "Baby" as it came to be known — and was content to watch others such as Bill Gates grow rich and powerful exploiting his advance.

Sitting in his front room at home in Urmston, Manchester, he gives the impression of a man happy that he has fulfilled his destiny.

There is not even a personal computer in the house. He does not surf the Net and has never had the slightest curiosity to find out what he would turn up if he typed in the words Tom Kilburn and allowed the search engine to scan the world in seconds.

He said: "It is a wonderful thing that something we did 50 years ago is being remembered now in almost microscopic detail to such an extent that if I had known at the time it was going to be inspected so closely, I might not have done it. I would have been paralysed."

Professor Kilburn will be thrust into the limelight as a key figure in the civic celebrations, academic conferences, exhibitions and concerts taking place in Manchester to mark the fiftieth anniversary. He will once again press the button as close to the anniversary as possible — around 11am on June 21 — to switch on a life-size replica of the "Baby"

Founding father of computer age will relive a day charged by spark of destiny, writes Russell Jenkins

created by the Computer Conservation Society to stand as a permanent exhibit at the Manchester Museum of Science and Technology.

Professor Kilburn had followed Sir Frederic, his mentor, to Manchester to work on a computing machine. They were joined by Geoff Toothill, Dai Edwards, Alec Robinson and Tommy Thomas. They were following on from the work of Alan Turing on Colossus, the Second World War code-breaker based at Bletchley Park. They knew they were in a race with Cambridge, Teddington and the Americans, whose ENIAC computing machine boasted 18,000 valves but could not store a program.

The 26-year-old Yorkshireman was so poor he moved his wife and young child into his parents' home in Dewsbury. Each day he would scribble equations on the train as he travelled to work.

The first digital computer stood like a giant Meccano set with live wires, 7ft high and 18ft long. There was a danger that it might overheat and explode. The team was convinced that the cathode ray tube was the right mechanism for storing data. On a Monday morning, after several failures, Professor Kilburn pressed the buttons on a flatfronted fascia board and it whirred into life to relay the answers to a simple program in dots on a tube.

"It worked. There was euphoria. Geoff Toothill, my assistant, and I danced up and down," Professor Kilburn said. "We knew we could build an

extended version that would be very significant in scientific and mathematical work. But did we know what would happen in the following 50 years? The answer is no."

Sir Frederic once said of the moment when the first stored-program computer worked: "Nothing was ever the same again."

Tom Kilburn spent 35 years at Manchester, becoming Emeritus Professor of Computer Science in the department he created. "I am proud of the development we achieved. However, if neither Freddie nor I had existed the time for the electronic computer had arrived. One of the others would have been first."

He believes the next 50 years will see advances in the field of artificial intelligence. An intelligent machine "would be unlikely to have the same IQ as a human being. It might be less, but how exciting it may be if it were more."



Baby and me: Tom Kilburn with a replica of the first stored-program computer, whose fiftieth anniversary is celebrated this month

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Tom Kilburn in 1948

“If I had known it was going to be inspected so closely, I might not have done it. I would have been paralysed”

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URGENT UPDATE

FACT Without UNICEF emergency supplies Tabitha could have died

When two year old Tabitha's mother brought her to a UNICEF-supplied feeding centre she was severely malnourished and suffering from diarrhoea. She was probably just a few days from death.

Now, after being fed UNIMIX (a nutritious, multi-vitamin porridge) and treated with oral rehydration salts, Tabitha has gained enough weight and strength to sit up and feed herself - you can see her progress in the table below.

Thanks to people's generous support, Tabitha and thousands of children like her are receiving the emergency aid they so desperately need.

FACT UNICEF is providing more than just food to the children of Sudan

Although most press coverage has focused on delivering emergency food to the children, UNICEF has been working to ensure that they can eat in the future - by providing seeds and tools to try and secure a successful September harvest.

UNICEF is also continuing to provide urgently needed medical supplies to the feeding centres, as children who are malnourished are particularly vulnerable to life-threatening diseases.

FACT Children are still in danger and supplies are running out

UNICEF desperately needs to raise more funds to help children survive the coming months. With your help we could:

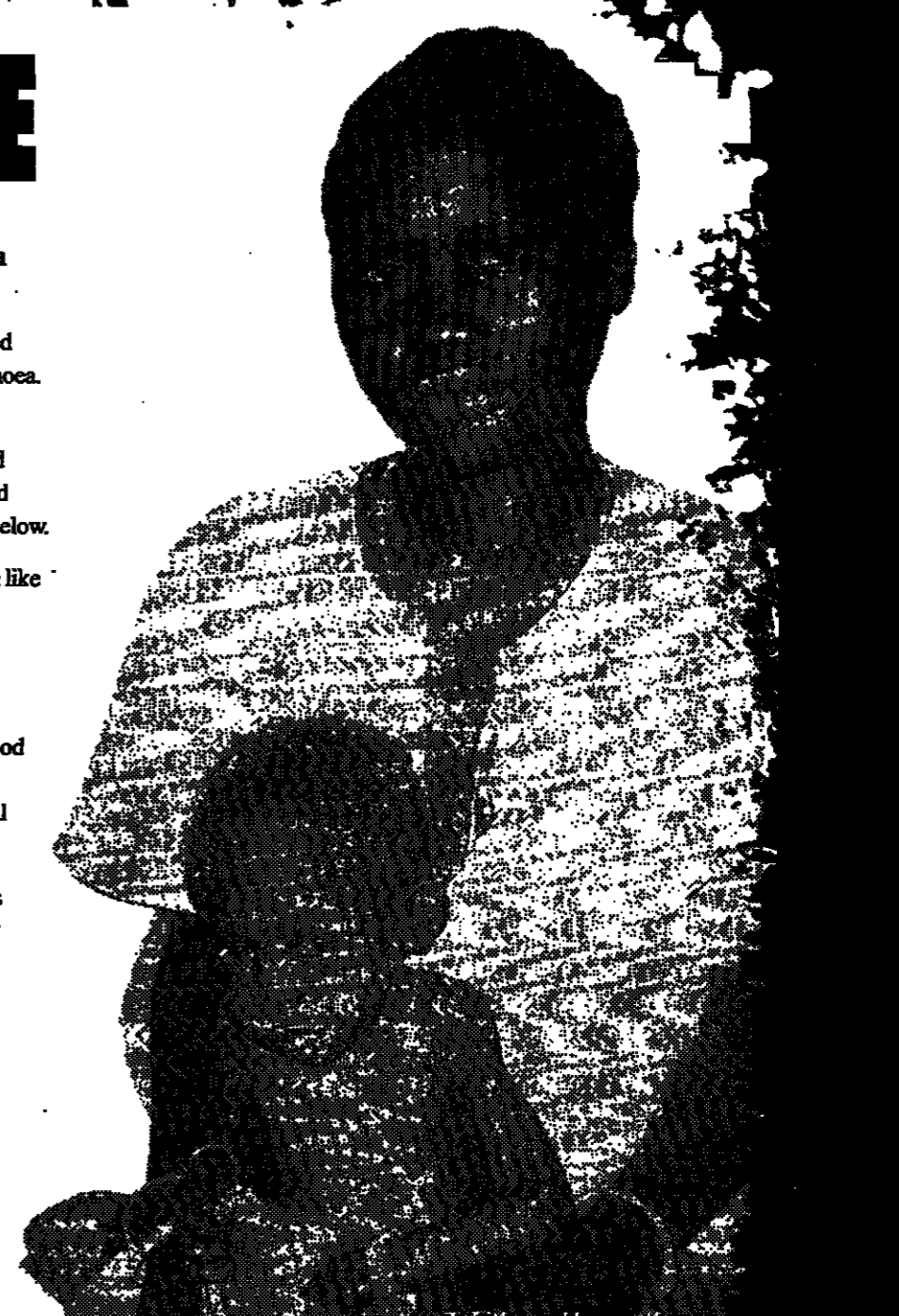
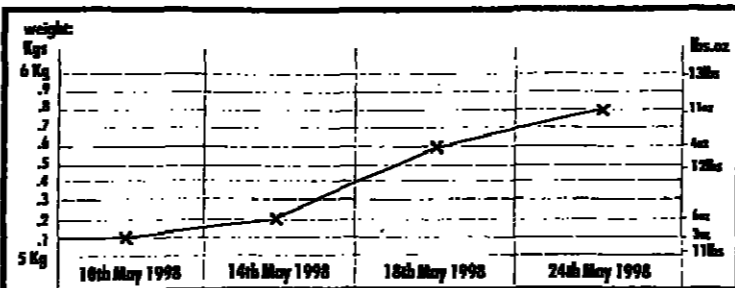
- Provide clean water to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases
- Supply rehydration salts to stop children dying of diarrhoea and loss of fluid
- Supply and administer vaccines to prevent lethal epidemics
- Provide high energy foods such as UNIMIX and dried Soya milk to the children we are now reaching in other areas of southern Sudan
- Provide shelter and blankets
- Pay for the fuel and running costs of the supply planes

As part of 'Operation Lifeline Sudan', UNICEF is working with conflict victims on all sides of the war. Of course for the children in Sudan, peace is the answer - but right now they need protection.

FACT You can help save a child's life in Sudan

Tabitha is living proof of what your donation can do - please help UNICEF save the lives of the many children still at risk from malnutrition and disease.

Tabitha's Health Improvement Chart



Tabitha and her mother

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Spain salvages pride from the Armada defeat

The Invincible Armada's attempt at invading England was neither a terrible defeat for Spain nor a ghastly error by King Philip II, according to Spanish historians busy polishing up the monarch's tarnished reputation.

Giles Tremlett on a new view of history 400 years after the death of Philip II

As Spain marks the 400th anniversary of Philip's death with a major exhibition at the austere, imposing San Lorenzo monastery he built in the hills at El Escorial, 40 miles north of Madrid, the Armada story is being reviewed, and retold, in a different light. The exhibition, opened recently by King Juan Carlos, includes items recovered from the wreckage of Armada ships that sank off the north of Ireland. It is the major event in the anniversary year and attempts to overturn Philip's reputation as a cruel and heartless ruler obsessed by conquest and Catholic purity. The Armada story plays a major role in this process, with both the scale of the defeat and its repercussions being questioned. Much of the blame for launching the Armada against England is laid at the feet of Queen Elizabeth I.

The lucrative raids on Spanish treasure galleons by British corsairs such as Sir Francis Drake had already stretched Spain's patience to the limit. The execution of the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots and Drake's attack on Cadiz are seen as the final acts of provocation that left Philip with little option but to attempt an invasion in 1588. "As this is a Godly cause, we can expect He will give it His divine protection and will guide it as He sees fit," Philip wrote at the time. The Armada itself was far from being a complete failure, according to the new view of Philip's achievements during his 40-year reign. Of the 127 vessels that left La Coruña with 28,000 sailors and sol-

diers on board, only 35 were lost. Most of these were fragile Mediterranean vessels or were Flemish or German.

The famous English attack with small fireships against the Armada at Calais is not considered a real naval battle by the historians charged with writing the new assessment of Philip. The attack may have forced the Spanish fleet out of harbour, but only one vessel was lost and that was grounded rather than burnt.

"It was only at Gravelines that anything approaching a naval battle took place," the historians affirm. Even then, they point out, only one vessel was sunk and two others were grounded. The stormy weather did the rest.

Although the Invincible Armada failed to take Philip's experienced Flanders army across the Channel to invade England, it did prove that Spain was capable of sending a large naval force to northern Europe, the historians argue.

Philip himself, although his pride was badly wounded, put a brave face on the defeat. He celebrated the Armada's return by having a special medallion cast with the inscription: "That is what was



An engraving of the Armada with, top left, Nicholas Hilliard's portrait of Elizabeth I, who encouraged piracy against Philip II, above left



An engraving of the Armada with, top left, Nicholas Hilliard's portrait of Elizabeth I, who encouraged piracy against Philip II, above left

destined." His defeated admiral, the Duke of Medina Sidonia, was never blamed for the failure.

"This episode, far from leading to the destruction of Spanish naval power in the Atlantic, helped to convince Philip that he needed a permanent naval force there," the historian Carlos Gómez-Centurión concludes.

Spanish historians say Philip II has been badly treated by popular British history, which has traditionally cast him as a

hard-hearted villain. The Armada and Philip's early, short marriage to Mary Tudor have unfairly coloured British views of a monarch who reigned over a vast empire and was famed for his prudence and his patronage of the arts, they argue.

Philip was viewed suspiciously in England from the moment in which he married Queen Mary at Winchester Cathedral in 1554. Mary was clearly besotted by her husband, who was ten years

younger and had not yet acceded to the Spanish throne.

On her death four years later, after two phantom pregnancies, he was blamed for many of her failures. Philip was held responsible both for England's loss of Calais and for his wife's bloody attempts to fight off the threats to Roman Catholicism.

However, Spanish historians say that Philip was actually a moderating influence on Mary. His aim had been to carry out a peaceful reconver-

sion. "It is highly significant that he never showed any approval for the violent policies that gained Mary her bloody reputation," explains the historian Mia Salgado. The exhibition at El Escorial does little, however, to counter the "Black Legend" for cruelty that has accompanied Philip II through history. He gave a free rein to the Inquisition and had his own son

to the exhibition. Among the objects on display are items recovered from the wreckage of two of the Armada's sunken warships, the Girona and the Trinidad. Valencera, which have been loaned by the Ulster Museum in Belfast.

The Maritime Museum at Greenwich has contributed a series of maps depicting the campaign against the Armada.

The Armada Portrait of Elizabeth I, loaned by the Tyrwhitt-Drake collection, is also on display.

As well, there are rarely seen, privately-owned portraits of Mary Tudor, from the Palazzo Colonna collection in Rome, and of Mary Stuart, from Spain's Casa de Alba collection.

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Eritrean air raid kills four at aid centre

ERITREA'S air force has killed four people and injured 10 others in an air raid on an aid centre in the north of the country, it was reported Saturday.

The aid centre was a joint project of the Eritrean Red Cross and the British Red Cross. It was located in the town of Mendefera, which is a strategic location on the border between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

The air raid was carried out by Eritrean fighter jets. The British Red Cross said that the attack was a deliberate one and that the aid centre was a legitimate target.

The British Red Cross is providing humanitarian aid to the people of Eritrea. It is one of the largest humanitarian organizations in the world.

R RODENSTOCK

A World of Vision

Truth and editor catch up with reporter who created a fantasy world

RARELY does gamekeeper turn poacher with such obsessive zeal. But the revelation that Stephen Glass, former chief reporter at the *New Republic* magazine, was a fantasist who invented two-thirds of his stories, has sent watchdogs of accuracy throughout the American media into anguished debate about whether they would have caught him any sooner.

A Washington fantasist lost a career but may find fame, says Bronwen Maddox

blend of fact and fiction". The magazine, based in Washington, which dismissed Mr Glass last month after the first case came to light, offers "no excuses... only our deepest apologies. The recriminations are all the greater because Mr Glass began his journalistic career as the *New Republic* chief fact-checker, responsible for corroborating the accuracy of facts in

reporters' pieces." Nobody can fault Mr Glass, 25, for lack of energy or ingenuity in fabricating his tales. A regular writer for leading American magazines, and a part-time law student, he drew up fake notes of imaginary conversations to satisfy the fact-checkers at the *New Republic*. He set up a voice-mail service for an imaginary

company linked to his brother's mobile phone, and created a Web site for a fake company, Jukt Micronics, featured in one article. Then there were phony lobby groups as plausible-sounding as any popping up on daytime television: The First Church of George Herbert Walker Christ; the Committee for the Former President's Integrity; and "a sky-diving industry newsletter" called *Jump Now*. Just one sky-diving enthusiast desperate for a new subscription could have unearthed the truth. But it was not until the editor of a Web site failed to track down the

sources in an article on computer hacking that the Editor of the *New Republic*, Charles Lane, grew suspicious. He dragged his young reporter to the Washington suburb of Bethesda, Maryland, where a conference of hackers was supposed to have assembled; security guards revealed that the building had been closed on the Sunday in question. After the *New Republic* example, other magazines, including *Rolling Stone* and *George*, the political glossy run by John Kennedy Jr, are combing back through Mr Glass's work. Mr Kennedy has

sent a personal apology to Vernon Jordan, a close friend and adviser of President Clinton, for two fabricated quotes in a profile, according to *The New York Times*. The revelations have prompted a flurry of soul-searching in the US press, which prides itself on its accuracy. Many newspapers and magazines employ full-time fact-checkers, and scrupulously assemble daily correction columns, from the spelling of a world leader's name to the quantity of raisins in a muffin recipe. And the perpetrator? He has holed up in his parents' home in a

Chicago suburb, emerging to take year-end examinations at Georgetown Law School. He has told friends that he is under a suicide watch and that "I'm going through this process of trying to figure myself out", according to *The Washington Post*. Although a career in journalism may now prove difficult, he may qualify for that most lucrative of modern American professions — national fame. *Vanity Fair* magazine is working on a profile of him, and two screenwriters are said to be on the trail of the rights to his story.

Eritrean air raid kills four at aid centre

FROM SAM KILEY IN ASMARA

ERITREA yesterday admitted bombing the Ethiopian town of Adigrat in air raids which killed four civilians. It said that Adigrat, about 25 miles south of the disputed border, was being used as a "garrison town and logistics base" by Ethiopian troops reinforcing their own positions close to Zalambessa, the scene of bitter fighting. The statement came as Adigrat was abandoned by most civilians, including 15,000 refugees from the surrounding countryside. Witnesses said that two helicopters dropped bombs with parachutes which drifted towards the edge of the town. Soon afterwards an Eritrean jet fired rockets at the offices and warehouse of a relief agency, destroying grain stores, killing four people and wounding many others.

At the local hospital a pregnant woman, injured by shrapnel, lay rocking back and forth on a bed. A mother comforted her baby of two months whose chest and legs were wrapped in bloody bandages from shrapnel wounds. The raid is the second time that Eritrean aircraft have hit civilians. Last week more than 40 people, including ten children, were killed and scores injured when Eritrean Impala jets bombed Makele. In Asmara, military sources said that the civilian casualties in Makele were regretted. The attack on Adigrat came less than 24 hours before Paul Kagame, the Rwandan Vice-President, arrived in Asmara to try to revitalise peace talks. An Italian delegation and an American team of diplomats were also expected to arrive. Asmara was tense yesterday as civilians and military awaited a reprisal attack by Ethiopian aircraft. Both sides were sending reinforcements to the battle front at Zalambessa where Eritrean troops are dug in well inside Ethiopian territory.

Leading article, page 23

Kosovo awaits Nato jets

FROM TOM WALKER IN MALISEVO AND MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE bustle in the Kosovo Liberation Army stronghold of Malisevo ceased briefly yesterday, its citizens peering into the high summer sky for the jets making a thunderous circuit of the surrounding hills and meadows.

Hours earlier, it had been a different roar that stirred the sleeping dogs of the rural trading post — the cannon and artillery of the Yugoslav Army, opening up from the border barracks at Dakovica, 20 miles to the southwest.

To the numerous innocents caught up in Kosovo's mud little war, the universal hope was that the jets above were the first sorties promised by Nato, although Igor Sergeev, the Russian Defence Minister, had been pleading with his Nato counterparts in Brussels to put military action on hold and give diplomacy a chance. Its shops are crammed with fresh produce, but Malisevo knows that without Western intervention it is living on borrowed time. President Milosevic of Yugoslavia's howitzers could flatten the dusty main street in minutes, much as they did the western border town of Decani.

Why Malisevo remains untouched is a mystery. Stuck in a triangle between the capital Pristina, the police checkpoint of Kijevo and the Yugoslav Army-patrolled main road at Dulje, the security forces have allowed it to evolve into the principal supply centre for central and western Kosovo. At night the guerrillas enforce a strict curfew, a menace to add to the power cuts that interrupted World Cup viewing.

Milosevic 'must halt onslaught by Monday'

BY MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE world's main military powers warned President Milosevic of Yugoslavia yesterday that unless he halted Serb attacks in Kosovo by Monday they would seek authority to launch assaults on his country.

Foreign ministers from the six-nation Contact Group, with Canada and Japan, told the Serb leader they would seek a United Nations resolution allowing them to take all necessary means to protect the ethnic Albanian majority if repression were



Ethnic Albanians fleeing from Kosovo head for Tropoja, near the Albanian border, in a rainstorm yesterday

By day, while war rages steadily nearer, Malisevo ticks along under the loose rule of the KLA, and life is effectively normal. "Everybody respects each other here. We don't need any other form of law and order," said Cen Destu, the founder of the town's Democratic League for Kosovo (LDK). He is one of a dwindling band of supporters of the LDK and its pacifist president, Ibrahim Rugova, in Malisevo: in his living room, pride of place goes to a portrait of

Adem Jashari, the bearded KLA guerrilla leader who was massacred along with his family in March.

"I cannot control the feelings of my young boys who adore Jashari," he admitted. "Rugova no longer has the means to control the radicalisation of the Kosovo problem. These are the last moments for the international community to support him."

Last night six RAF Jaguar ground attack aircraft were ordered to fly to Gioia del

Colle in Italy to prepare to take part in the Nato air exercise over Albania and Macedonia next week. At least six Nato countries and about 40 aircraft are expected to participate.

Mr Sergeev, in calling for diplomacy instead of military action, underlined the significance of the meeting on Monday between President Yeltsin and President Milosevic. The day after Nato defence ministers authorised the military authorities to plan for possible

airstrikes, however, there was little sign of optimism that the Russian President would be able to dissuade Mr Milosevic from pursuing his repressive tactics.

Washington: President Milosevic has ordered his army to mine the Albanian border to stop Kosovo rebels crossing and to prevent the return of thousands driven from their homes, according to European military observers in the region (Tom Rhodes writes).

WORLD IN BRIEF

Jewish settlers win right to arm

Jerusalem: Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank are to be allowed to form their own armed, volunteer civil guard units. Major General Uzi Dayan announced yesterday as he took over as deputy Chief of Army Staff (Christopher Walker writes). Palestinians and left-wing Israeli opposition politicians reacted furiously to the surprise decision, but Aharon Domb, the settlers' leader, praised the change of heart as an act of "affirmative action".

The units are expected to be set up initially in settlements such as Maaleh Adumim, which has a population of 20,000. Settlers say the decision underlines the fact that the area will never be returned to the Palestinians.

Youth slaughters family

Amman: A Jordanian aged 19 has confessed to shooting dead three generations of his family while under heavy pressure to pass his final high school exams, police said. Saeed al-Qashash, who was repeating his final school year after failing exams in 1997, confessed to killing 12 people, including his mother and father, in the basement of their southern Amman home. Among the dead were his brothers and sisters, aged between 10 and 30, and a sister's husband, their children and a friend. (AFP)

Pretoria germ war fears

Cape Town: Britain and America warned the South African apartheid authorities to keep their chemical and biological warfare programme out of the hands of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress Government, it was claimed at a hearing of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Hanif Vally, a commission legal officer, made the statement while cross-examining Niel Knobel, the retired surgeon-general who headed the military's medical services. Mr Knobel agreed with the statement. (AFP)

Troops beat students

Jakarta: About 700 Indonesian troops wielding batons broke up a demonstration of East Timorese students in the grounds of the Foreign Ministry and took hundreds into detention. Some of the 800 demonstrators tried to hold their ground and were hit on the head and body by troops. The protesters, who were demanding a referendum on East Timor's future and the release of political prisoners, were taken away in 15 buses. Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 and annexed it the following year. (Reuters)

Bissau warning to Britons

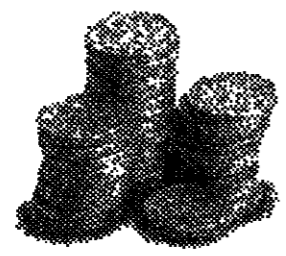
London: British citizens in Guinea-Bissau were last night warned by the Foreign Office to stay away from the capital, Bissau. In a message broadcast on the BBC World Service, it said: "British nationals outside Bissau are safe and should not attempt to enter the town." Expatriates have been evacuated from the war-torn West African state by ship. The airport is under rebel control and evacuation cannot be undertaken by air. More vessels to take expatriates to safety are expected to arrive tomorrow.

'Titanic' copycat missing

Oslo: A Norwegian woman imitating a scene from the Oscar-winning film *Titanic* lost her grip on a ship's rail and plunged into the sea off Varberg, western Sweden, where she vanished and is presumed dead, the Oslo newspaper *Dagbladet* reported. The woman, identified only as being in her thirties, was on board the *Queen of Scandinavia* ferry on an overnight run from Oslo to Copenhagen when she climbed over a railing and hung outside the ship. (AP)



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Isotope cloud drifted over Europe

By Ben Macintyre and Nigel Hawkes

INTERNATIONAL experts have launched an investigation to identify the source of a radioactive cloud detected over southern Europe.

Between May 25 and June 2, the observatory of the French Institute for Nuclear Protection and Security at Toulon reported abnormal levels of airborne radioactivity, which at times were 1,000 times greater than normal.

The Swiss Health Ministry also detected the cloud, at levels exceeding a hundred times normal. In both countries a single radioactive isotope, caesium-137, was responsible.

The normal level is about 1.5 microbecquerels per cubic metre of air. Between May 26 and June 8, the Swiss measurements show levels rising to 150 microbecquerels, while in France they reached 200 microbecquerels. While significant, these levels are considered to pose no health threat.

Northern Italy, the Czech Republic, Greece and Bulgaria have also detected the cloud.

The fact that only a single isotope has been detected rules out a nuclear power station accident, which would have released a mixture of isotopes. The Swiss monitoring teams have also ruled out last month's Indian and Pakistani bomb tests.

The most likely source was the accidental incineration of a caesium source used for medical or industrial purposes. Such radiation sources are used for non-destructive testing, and for medical radiology. Strict rules cover their use and disposal.



The Guerlain mansion which armed raiders plundered before the shooting began

Perfume chief shot as gang raids mansion

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

JEAN-PAUL Guerlain, the celebrated French perfume maker, was shot and seriously injured by a dozen masked and heavily armed raiders who burst into his property outside Paris and stole valuables worth more than £1 million early yesterday.

The raid, which also left a security guard with critical lung wounds, took place a few hours after M Guerlain, 61, presented his latest scent, Guerlainade, at a press gala in the Champs Elysées to mark the 170th anniversary of the Parisian parfumeur. The intruders arrived in several cars at the Guerlain mansion in the tiny village of La Millière near Versailles, before midnight.

Security staff were disarmed while the burglars, wearing black boiler-suits, rounded up M Guerlain's employees and their families from the main mansion and other houses on the sprawling property.

M Guerlain and members of his family were forced at gunpoint to open strongboxes and safes in the main house and other buildings on the estate, according to police sources. An American woman, a friend of the family who was staying in the house, was forced to hand over jewellery believed to be worth £12 million (£1.2 million), *Le Monde* newspaper reported.

"They were attacked by between ten and 12 hooded men, armed with revolvers and pump-action shotguns," Yves Colleu, the Versailles prosecutor investigating the case, said.

Over the next four hours the gang systematically ransacked the property, stealing silverware, cash, jewellery and other valuables. After 3am, as the gang members were preparing to leave with their haul, shooting started when M Guerlain apparently attempted to raise the alarm by firing a gun. He was shot in the leg with a 9mm bullet, and one of his security guards was shot twice in the chest.

Another estate employee was badly beaten by the intruders, and another member of the house staff was injured when he tried to escape by jumping through the glass of a second-floor window. The injured men were taken to a Paris hospital, where M Guerlain was operated on to remove the bullet from his leg. The security guard remained in critical condition yesterday, and M Colleu described his state as "extremely worrying".

Thibault Ponroy, the president of the Guerlain perfume and cosmetics house, said M Guerlain was out of danger. "He was complaining ... when Jean-Paul complains."

M Colleu said: "The precise value of the theft has not been established, but it will be very large." News reports said the value of the stolen property amounted to "millions of francs". He said that the shooting had been "apparently provoked by a gesture of defiance by M Guerlain, who tried to grab a pistol and raise the alarm".

About 40 police were hunting the raiders yesterday. The Guerlain scent dynasty was founded in 1828 by Pierre François Pascal Guerlain, and in 1906 the perfume house became part of the Moët-Hennessy-Louis Vuitton luxury goods group. M Guerlain, considered one of the last great "noses" in France, is the inventor of such fragrances as Verveur (1958), Habit Rouge (1965), Samsara (1983) and Heritage (1992).

Apprenticed to his grandfather, Jacques Guerlain, M Guerlain is said to be able to distinguish between 3,000 different smells.

The potion that is used as the base of all the Guerlain fragrances is known irreverently by the family as La Soupe. M Guerlain, who dispenses it personally, is said to be the only one to know its secret.



Jean-Paul Guerlain with Sophie Marceau, an actress. He had launched his latest perfume hours before the attack

French jobs police drive the workaholics from their desks

Bureaucrats are working all hours to ban corporate overtime, Ben Macintyre says

In one of the more bizarre aspects of the French Government's drive to reduce the working week to 35 hours, teams of inspectors have carried out a series of raids on companies whose executives and other employees are suspected of working too hard.

To many overworked Britons, the idea of a clampdown on unpaid overtime may seem more than acceptable, but French companies complain that the Socialist's efforts to enforce a shorter working week will have a catastrophic effect on profits and competitiveness.

The *International Herald Tribune* yesterday reported the case of a subsidiary of Alcatel, the French telecommunications manufacturer, which fell foul of the anti-overtime inspectors. At 7pm one day this year, as the company's engineers and executives were working hard to finish a key contract, a group of inspectors from the French Ministry of Jobs and Solidarity reportedly arrived and demanded to know why they were still at their desks after normal working hours. The team of 420 inspectors has reportedly gone to extraordinary lengths to tackle workaholicism in the workplace, such as photographing vehicles in company car parks to record their owners' hours, or monitoring personal computers to see whether individuals are secretly working overtime at home. Among the French companies investigated by the jobs inspectors are Thomson-CSF, the electronics firm, Carrefour, the huge supermarket chain, and the Crédit Local de France bank.

The Socialist-led Government insists that reducing the working week to 35 hours from the current official 39 hours will create much-needed jobs to tackle the country's chronic unemployment.

Last month the National Assembly approved a broad framework for the reduction in the working week from 2000, despite strenuous opposition from the CNPF, the main French employers' federation. Further legislation will be needed next year to fill in the details of the shorter working week, and a key issue is how far the new official hours can be made to apply to upper-level salaried employees, who tend to do more unpaid overtime.

Officials at the Ministry for Jobs and Solidarity concede that recent actions by inspectors were intended to clarify, before 2000, the legal position of the so-called "cadres" in France, the 15 million employees ranging from lower-level executives and those with professional skills to company chairmen.

The raids have recently been suspended, according to the *International Herald Tribune*, pending negotiations over a definition of official working hours for this section of the workforce.

In the meantime, the threat of government action against companies whose workers spend too long in the office has created a most peculiar atmosphere in some parts of the French workplace: the employee who arrives before dawn and slaves away into the night determined to finish the job has become a liability, whereas the clockwatcher who stays at his post not a moment longer than necessary may be the new-model French worker.

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TREK FROM MIRAGE TO MIRAGE

JEFFREY ARCHER: THE DEATH OF A DREAM

The diners who cooked his goose

Michael Gove and Andrew Pierce analyse how a Tory plot to stop the millionaire writer standing for election as mayor of London was hatched in an Oxford debating chamber



Archer at 29, entering the Commons for the first time

The assassination of Jeffrey Archer's character this week has been, like the murder on the *Orient Express*, the work of many hands. It has been part conspiracy, part coincidence and altogether Conservative. And the final, fatal blow should be delivered by the closest of friends.

At the end of a turbulent week for the millionaire novelist, there was no comfort for the party leader to whom he has become an expensive embarrassment. Tackled at the Welsh Conservative Party Conference yesterday, William Hague declined to offer any support for Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, who has been battling to keep his campaign to become mayor of London alive after a series of body blows which give the impression of a co-ordinated heavyweight assault.

All Hague would say is: "I'm not going to endorse or express disapproval of any of the possible Conservative candidates." He may not have expressed disapproval, but he could have been supportive.

Archer has claimed he will carry on, as an example to others contemplating a career in public life, to show that the press cannot dictate politicians' fates.

But it is more than his enemies in the Fourth Estate



FALSE STARTS: leopard-skinned cadet in 1958. Subsequent military career lasted four months

who have been trying to do Archer down. The conspiracy to stop the People's Party becoming mayor was hatched two months ago at the Oxford Union — one of the first establishment citadels that Archer tried to storm.

Friday, April 17, was a balmy night, and an historic one. A distinguished array of the Oxford debating society's former officers had gathered to celebrate the Union's 175th anniversary over salmon, chicken, burgundy and port. Three guests of honour, former presidents of the society, were men who had seen Archer cross their path in the past. Edward Heath had been leader of the Tory party when Archer entered the Commons. Michael Heseltine had been at the Department of Trade and Industry when Archer was investigated on insider dealing charges and William Hague now had to consider another tricky application by Archer — his bid to become the Tory candidate for mayor.

Archer was not there, having been only on the lower

rungs of the society's ladder. His name was, however, on several lips. One of the most sought-after guests that night was Archer's biographer, Michael Crick, a president of the Union in the late Seventies. Over dinner, he was asked by several friends of Hague just how rickety Archer's record was and how he might be stopped. Having satisfied their curiosity on the first point, he provided them with an answer on the second.

Archer was dangerous only because the democratic reforms within the Tory party allowed him to exploit his apparent popularity with activists to secure the nomination for mayor. But those same reforms gave the Tory leadership the perfect weapon to stop Archer. As Crick explained to his listeners, the Tory party had this new ethics and integrity committee to vet candidates. Why not drag Archer before it and start asking some tough questions?

One of those there recalls how "fascinating" Crick's conversation was, and how interesting were many of the stories that had not made the book. One friend of Hague who was also particularly close to Crick was at the Oxford dinner that night — Alan Duncan, the MP for Rutland and Melton. Duncan was, at the time, the leader's main fixer. Himself a former Union president, Duncan was the only Tory MP to attend the launch party of Crick's book on Archer, *Stranger than Fiction*.

The merit of Crick's suggestion communicated itself effortlessly to Duncan — here was the perfect mechanism to prevent Archer embarrassing the Tory party by carrying on with his campaign. How could Archer provide persuasive defences for all his past shenanigans in such a manner as to ensure they would never embarrass the Tories again?

Even as the idea was fermenting in Duncan's mind another was thinking alike. Sir Timothy Kitson has had no front-rank involvement in politics since he resigned as MP for Richmond in 1983 — five years before Hague took that seat over. But he found himself on the front pages this week after his decision to recommend that the Tory party's ethics committee investigate Archer's past. He was, apparently, moved by fear that Archer's candidacy could gravely damage the party. An old ally of Heath, Kitson is described by another of Heath's former circle as "a shire Tory who adds value, an absolutely honest but very wily chap who would have made an ideal Chief Whip".

It is still unclear why Kitson acted when he did, but one old Heathite believes he was encouraged by Max Hastings, Editor of the *London Evening Standard*. He ventures: "I believe that they have friends in common on the county circuit."

Whether prompted by Has-

tings or not, Kitson's letter to the Tory high command soon acquired an incendiary character. Last week Crick was rung by several journalists inquiring if he knew about a storm to break over Archer's head. All seemed to have been briefed in a similar fashion. Crick was discreet, and not a little bewildered.

All became clear when *The Sunday Telegraph* led its front page on the news that Kitson had written to Central Office demanding an inquiry. He had apparently been moved to act after having read an article by Paul Foot in the *Evening Standard* which built on Crick's damaging revelations.

There was something mysterious about this bombshell. Kitson's timing was a little odd. He had known Archer, and his defects, well before Foot alerted a wider audience. He had been with him in the Commons in the early Seventies. He had read Crick's book,

although he had not co-operated on it, but had told others that there was more juicy detail about Archer than the book had missed.

The timing of the story was also a little odd. Several journalists had been sniffing around this area, and it seemed as though they had been alerted by senior Tory sources. But it is understood that the Tory chairman, Lord Parkinson, knew about Kitson's letter only when he read the paper which he found only when he came into the office on Monday.

Might another senior Tory with access to Central Office, authority with the press, and an interest in saving Hague's reputation from association with Archer have leaked the letter's contents? Might that same Tory be one who knew how damaging to Archer an inquiry by the ethics committee could prove?

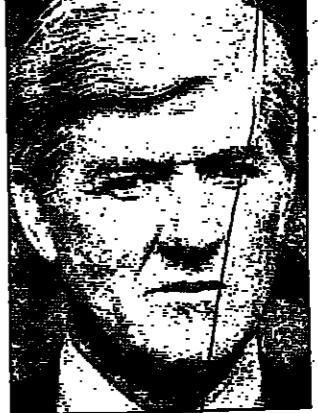
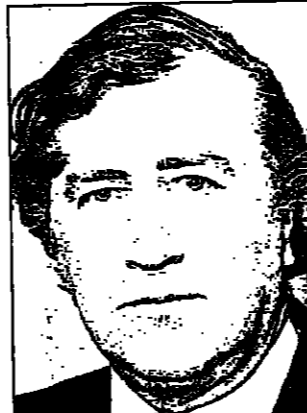
Duncan is no longer in

Hague's office, having been given a new job two weeks ago as a Shadow health spokesman. But he has as keen an interest in his leader's health as the nation's.

Archer responded to these assaults with typical verve, in a two-page article in Tuesday's *Evening Standard*. "He took his cause right into enemy territory," one admiring friend said.

Other friends were not so sure about the strategy which involved a rebuttal of the charges against him, albeit on a selective basis. Archer critiqued to say whether he had misled Oxford University over a degree from an American university.

Friends such as Sir Tim Bell, one of the most politically astute advertising men of his generation, suspected Archer was walking yet another tight-rope. The next day he was proved right. Wednesday's *Evening Standard* published



The plotters Kitson, left, and Duncan, centre, took Lord Parkinson by surprise

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JEFFREY ARCHER: THE DEATH OF A DREAM



and he was in the police for five months; the graduate in 1962 (but how did he acquire the gown?); and emerging victorious from the High Court in 1987

damaging new evidence about Archer's role in the purchase of 25,000 shares in Anglia Television when his wife was a non-executive director.

Sir Nicholas Lloyd, the former editor of the Daily Express and a close friend, publicly contradicted Archer's assertion that he was the inspiration at a dinner party in January 1994. It emerged that the dinner party was on the same day that Archer had sold the shares for a £77,000 profit.

On the same day The Times reported that if Archer pursued his mayoral dream he would certainly face the humiliation of an investigation by the ethics and integrity committee into whether he would be suitable to be Tory candidate. Publicly the party maintained that no decision had been made.

But senior officials privately concede that an investigation is inevitable if Archer defies

the advice of an increasing number of senior Tories and fights on.

There is a great deal at stake for Archer. The ethics and integrity committee is empowered not only to investigate his suitability to be a candidate but whether he can remain a member of the party. If it concludes he cannot hold high office, can it really conclude that he is still a fit and proper person to carry the blue rosette in other fields? The Tory whip in the House of Lords, which he has loyally taken since John Major elevated him, would also be at risk.

A senior Tory said: "There is a thin dividing line between being suitable as a candidate and suitable to remain as a member. It is hard to divide the two. If he goes before the committee and fails to win he could be shown the door of the Tory party."

"No one wants that to happen to Jeffrey who has

been an outstanding servant. But if you are not deemed suitable to be a candidate how can you be suitable to stay in the party and take the whip in the House of Lords?"

A stark choice faces Archer, who remains one of the most popular men in the party.

If the ethics committee goes against him his role at Tory fundraising balls, on the campaign trail, and on the rubber chicken circuit for Tory associations is over. But if he walks away from the scene of battle, blaming a campaign of media assassination, he could bask in the sympathetic approval of the Tory grass roots.

Archer has always maintained that if Hague asked him to stand down he would do so without delay. Hague, who is determined to stay above the fray, will not do so. John Major might.

While Archer had an open line to Major and Margaret Thatcher during their leader-

ship, there is no such access to Hague. Since the election the new leader has kept the peer at arm's length.

Archer is miles away from Hague's inner circle. It was a deliberate decision, not least because Hague knew of Archer's intention to run for

mayor. Senior Tories are hoping that Major, a close and loyal friend, will persuade him to stand down.

Conservative Central Office is determined not to become involved. If any other emissary were sent, Archer would portray it as an unseemly

establishment stitch-up. But Archer would have to respect a visit from the man who made him a peer.

A senior party figure said: "There is a distinct feeling that Jeffrey can now make things only worse for himself and for the party. A lot of people feel

great loyalty to Jeffrey. John Major is unimpeachably honest and a good and loyal friend to Jeffrey. We hope he will do the right thing by Jeffrey, take him aside, and persuade him to stand down. John, of all people, knows how an election campaign can be diverted by

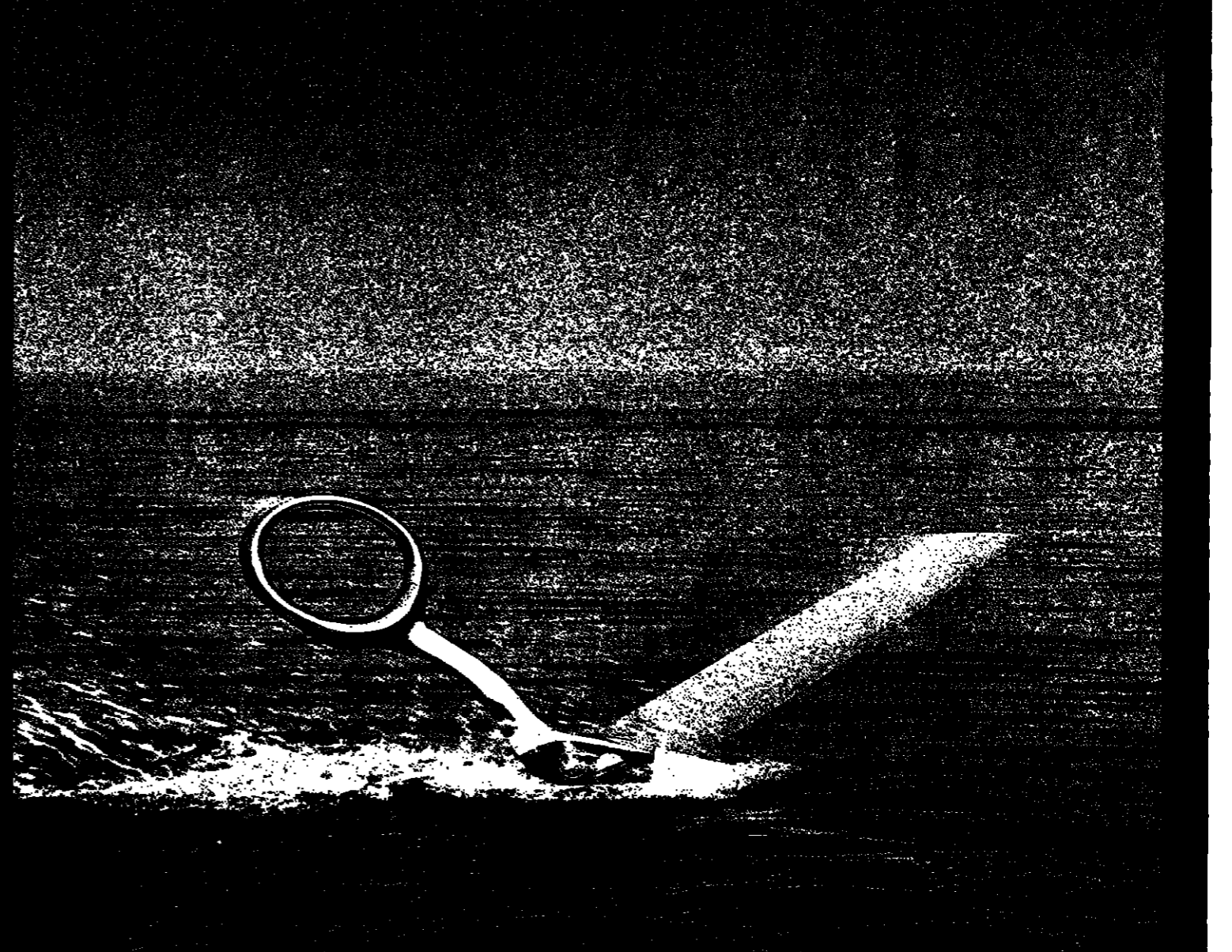
personality issues, no matter how unfair it may seem. We can think of no one else to do it."

Et tu, John? What might seem like a cruelty could be the greatest kindness that Major could do his friend, and his party.



Archer's critics Max Hastings and Michael Crick, and friend John Major

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BRITISH AIRWAYS HOLIDAYS

Big Brother is watching your purse

Shoppers will soon be manipulated from space, says Jeffrey Robinson

Once upon a time advertising told us how a product could make our life better and politely hinted that we might want to buy one. Then advertising made us feel guilty, suggesting that we were not good parents unless we bought ourselves a new dishwasher so that we had more time to spend with the children.

After that, advertising became funny because if a product could make us laugh, we would like it better and buy it more often. Then advertisers realised that by pushing magic feel-good buttons—dazzling us with Gold Blend romance—we would quickly let it to the store. And all the time, clever marketing teams were waiting at the entrance, leading us sheep-like down the aisles to assure full carts.

The next step, if Bill Gates and Boeing have their way, will put an end to the era when we, as consumers, stood half a chance. They want to ring the Earth with 324 satellites that will do nothing but serve the Internet, linking every outpost on the planet to the information superhighway. By then combining the Internet with digital television, information will no longer go only from them to us, but also from us to them.

The return trip will reveal more about ourselves than most of us would ever want anyone to know, and more accurately define us as targets in the sights of people who want to sell us goods.

We have already seen the first signs of this new world in store loyalty cards. Each time we shop, the store adds to its database of our habits, telling them who we are, how we live and what expectations we have. Until now, marketing firms have had to define us by our postal codes, drawing generalisations about people living in the same neighbourhood. With our shopping habits under the microscope, they can take aim at us as individuals and, like magicians offering a fan of cards but forcing the stooge to choose the one they have marked, effortlessly direct our choice.

Managing such a stunt can reap huge rewards. There are billions of pounds at stake. Consider the commercial advantage to one manufacturer of knowing the lifestyles, purchasing habits, names and addresses of his competitors' customers.

It is hardly surprising then that some extremely intelligent people are devoting their energy to finding sure ways of forcing our choice. Methods include redesigning stores to separate a wife and husband, because alone they will each buy more than they would if they stayed together; reorganising stores to ensure that children accompanying their parents stay with their fathers, because they are easier to win round than mothers when it

comes to children's whims. An understanding of how and where to place items can increase the number of impulse purchases—now a staggering 60 per cent. Other strategies include knowing how to package high-margin items so that we choose them instead of less profitable ones; creating fashions that play directly to our egos; sneaking products into firms and advertising that we have paid to see; and commercially brainwashing children because, once trapped, they will be customers for life.

As the world of digital television and the Internet combine, supposedly to give us more choice, the reality is that for most of us choice will be resolutely narrowed. The concept of "targeted straffing" means that two neighbours watching the same television show will see different commercials; that a couple watching the same television show on two different sets in the same house will see different commercials; that the same couple watching a show together on the same set will see different ads than they otherwise might if they were watching alone.

Of course, we can save ourselves by becoming non-existent. No store loyalty cards. No credit cards. No inclusion on the electoral register.

Impulse buys now amount to 60% of our purchases

No smartcards—a credit card with a computer chip and enough memory to hold our entire life's history. Staying immune means living with no record of our own existence anywhere.

But to hope for regulation of any sort is a pipe-dream. How can anyone dictate standards in cyberspace, when no one even knows where it is? For the manipulators, national boundaries will no longer exist. Each of our lives will have been reduced to bytes on computer chips; whether those chips are in Britain or elsewhere will be of no significance. Where those chips are, we will be; and yet, wherever those chips are, they will, by their nature, be beyond the reach of any one government.

Where we as consumers once stood a chance, advertising and marketing firms which can successfully refine the art and science of manipulation are guaranteed to reap huge dividends by limiting our choice and making certain that we no longer do.

Early in the next century, we consumers will have become the product. Customers with buying power will be sold by one group of manipulators to other businesses, who will only survive through the sorry and science of their own hired manipulators.

The author's latest book is *The Manipulators: A Conspiracy to Make Us Buy*, published by Simon & Schuster.

NATURE NOTES



Huffin' Puffin (*Prescottius transportpolicus*)

One of Britain's more colourful birds, the puffin is equally at home on water, land or in the air. (see above) The call is a low, growling 'hrrmph'.

The power of the gong

For the price of a hundred titles a year, Downing Street can hold most of the Establishment in thrall

The carpet in the corridor that leads from the House of Commons to the House of Lords is a river deep with history. Its banks are lined with heavy tomes. Soft lights illumine Pugin's ceilings. We enter Valhalla. Deep armchairs conceal the undead. Faces half-recognised from old newsreels start out from shadows, moving slow motion. They murmur softly to each other, wondering if the grim reaper will allow them one last chance to Save the World. The House of Lords is Narnia, land of lost dreams and Turkish Delight.

Is that really James Callaghan, an Asian within the purlieus of Parliament? Is that the White Witch jostling Quintin Hogg and Denis Healey and Willie Whitelaw, and Peter Carrington and David Owen and all the other ghosts? And who are those moving among them. We are told their names are Marlborough, Nelson, Wellington, Kitchener, Haig, Montgomery, living legislators all. Over there are Salisbury and Essex, Lauderdale and Clarendon, Baldwin, Lloyd George and Attlee. This place is a British eldorado, a cocktail of history, not shaken, barely stirred. It is Madame Tussaud's with moving chests. Can this be real? Cool Britannia guarded by spectres from her island story?

Today Tony Blair has produced a list of peers (and knights) unusually free of favouritism or stealth. This is a bad omen. We should never underestimate the power of this institution. Wanting to be a lord may be a rite of passage akin to deploring the price of haircuts and switching to *The Daily Telegraph*. But it is a boon widely and sorely desired. From Stuart monarchs to Tory fundraisers, rulers have known that those who want something badly afford power to those who give it. Falstaff's "mere scutcheon" may not mend a leg, but it oils the body politic.

The potency of the House of Lords lies not within its walls or constitution. It lies outside, among those clamouring for membership. A Prime Minister cannot whip 1,000 Lords, but he can whip 10,000 aspirants. A politician of my acquaintance calculated that for the price of a hundred titles a year, Downing Street can hold most of the British Establishment in thrall. Since roughly a third of the senior titles are (or were) "sold", the rest must be distinguished enough to keep the process credible, but not so as to leave

timeservers without hope. Every ennobled dud enslaves a thousand others.

This is neither cynical nor trivial. It is the essence of patronage, and in Britain carries far less risk to the public than, say, the abuse of American ambassadorships. Yet there is a cost. As the prospect of honour nears, a man's daring is eroded by deference, loyalty gains the upper hand, soundness comes next to saintliness. This even applies where an honour goes with the job. Many is the reckless quango who foolishly thought his gong automatic. The honours system is integral to the web of discipline by which central govern-

ment rules the public and even private sector. Why else is the House of Lords packed with "working peers" who never work, party apparatchiks, "ex officio" and unknown friends of the Prime Minister? An unspoken deal has been struck. If the House of Lords was not about power, Prime Ministers would not waste time on it. They would set up an independent commission and let the Lords be filled on merit.

This past month, Mr Blair's staff have been recklessly canvassing names for the House of Lords, due to be repacked after the proposed abolition of the hereditary peers. The watering holes of the capital have echoed to the familiar phraseology, "is he sound... reliable... one of us?" They should be careful. Incoming governments do not know many people. Prospective courtiers are untested. Downing Street must already curse its foolishness in giving so many gongs to the arts in its first year. Machiavelli's first lesson in patronage is, keep them guessing. An honour granted is not a soul thankful. It is a soul free to bite the hand that fed it.

The House of Lords in its present form is an ideal accoutrement to prime ministerial power, weak but

glamorous, insignificant yet desirable. Mr Blair may take credit for having grasped the nettle of reform, but having grasped it, he seems reluctant to unloosen his fist. The hereditaries are finished. If those with land, wealth and pedigree wish to exert political power, they should do so like everyone else, via democracy. But Mr Blair refuses to reveal to the public, Parliament or the Opposition what should take their place. Why the Government refuses to pass this question to a bipartisan commission is a mystery wrapped in suspicion.

Mr Blair has shown little inclination so far to diminish the power of his office. The Cabinet's proposed two-stage reform of the House of Lords is ominous. It implies that once the 800 hereditary peers have been ejected, Mr Blair can merely bring out his list of replacements to make up numbers and do nothing. But there is no more legitimacy in a House composed of living cronies of a ruler than in the heirs of a dead one. Abolishing two thirds of the Upper House and refusing to declare its replacement is abuse of executive power worthy of the Stuart crown. Constitutional reform on this scale, when the Opposition is open to debate, should be bipartisan, not enforced by a Commons majority. This Government may have a parliamentary majority. It does not have a popular one.

I have on my desk a number of proposals for a new Upper House to satisfy any Cabinet commission. Most reformers want it filled by election, including research by Charter 88 and the Institute for Public Policy Research. Recent studies under the auspices of All Souls and Douglas Slater suggest various forms of indirect election. There is less affection for the 1968 idea of an appointed chamber, shelved by backbenchers opposed to the power this would give the party leaders. All these models

share the defect of making the Lords merely a diluted Commons, and thus ensuring tighter party control over candidate selection. Proportional representation would merely hand power to party shortlisting committees.

From all this material, I distil a single principle. The Upper House, if it is to have so little power, should at least be independent of party. The most radical alternatives, from the Bow Group and Demos, proffer a chamber chosen by lottery for a fixed term, like juries. This inspired idea could certainly encompass a proportion of members. But distinctive independence should come from status in another walk of life than politics. The best idea, expounded by John Grigg earlier this week, is for an extension of the *ex officio* principle, applied in the present House for clergymen and judges. Such an assembly would be "functional", composed of businessmen, union leaders, doctors, teachers, farmers, the voluntary sector, any group selected from relevant organisations for a fixed term by an independent Commission of Surmons. Territorial and indirect democratic interest would be served by civic and county leaders. No other method would ensure a distinctive chamber independent of the ever-burgeoning power of central government.

This chamber should have nothing to do with honours. Its members would not be lords or ladies, since those titles should remain part of a quite separate "college" of people meriting national recognition. That recognition too should be removed from Downing Street. Nobody outside politics seriously believes that service to country is best judged by those hiding behind the bullet-proof windows of Nos 10, 11 and 12 Downing Street. The honour due by the State to meritorious individuals should be decided under the Head of State, not the head of government. Politicians have for years abused this function, polluting it with sleaze. It should pass to an independent Royal Commission under the Crown. What better function for the monarch to perform?

This is what should be done. Will it be done? Forget it. There is no power under Heaven half so sweet as to shower one's friends with honour and legislative status. The profession of politics long ago seized this power from the Crown. It will not be surrendered.

Simon Jenkins

Rape, or educating Artemisia

Elaine Showalter on the film that divides feminists

Movies about epic real-life heroines are rare (*Azraelia Earhart*, *George Sand* and *Lillian Hellman* come to mind), so you'd think feminists would be rejoicing over a new biopic of the groundbreaking 17th-century Italian painter Artemisia Gentileschi. Yet *Artemisia*, by the French director Agnes Merlet, is at the centre of a bitter feminist controversy in America, where it has just been released. At stake are opposing views of female creativity and responsibility.

When Artemisia was 17, her father, a Roman painter, hired his friend Agostino Tassi to instruct her in perspective. He did so by brutally raping the virginal Artemisia. In 1612, her father brought charges against Tassi for rape and for theft, and despite being tortured, Artemisia would not recant her story. It survives in a transcript of the trial. Tassi was convicted and served eight months in prison; Artemisia married a wealthy Florentine, and bore a daughter. But the marriage ended and she lived for almost 40 years as an independent woman artist. Her most famous painting, *Judith Beheading Holofernes* (1631), now in the Uffizi, has been interpreted as her fierce response to the rape.

In the film, however, Artemisia is in love with Tassi. After a rough defecation, she goes on to have an affair with him that liberates her as an artist. In the trial, she is tortured by the judges to force her to admit to the rape, rather than to recant it.

Feminists and art historians who have protested against the film say it dishonours Artemisia by focusing on her sex life, and insults women by evading the facts of the rape. But Merlet counters that the transcript of the case is ambiguous and contradictory, and that Artemisia and Tassi did indeed have an affair that lasted a year. In her view, the trial was the real rape, and *Judith* refers to Artemisia's anger at her judges.

Both arguments are legitimate, but each represents conflicting views of feminist creative responsibility. Merlet, influenced by the romantic tradition of *Wuthering Heights* and the cinematic tradition of the libidinous male artist, believes that women artists too are empowered through their passion. She wants to inspire young audiences with an exciting movie about a feminist heroine who can love, battle and paint alongside men. But for Merlet's critics, these are vulgar clichés; they believe that feminist film directors must stick to facts, and that rape is too serious an offence to be romanticised.

The feminist biopic engenders such disputes because it is a new genre. From Gandhi to the IRA, popular movies about epic male lives are familiar enough so that audiences accept some dramatic tinkering with the facts, and focus on the overall rendering of a heroic sensibility in a particular time. But women's lives have been thought to be too small to offer a window on an age or to attract a large audience. Before feminists can demand fidelity to detail, we need to encourage women's stories on the big screen. When there are movies about Mary Wollstonecraft as well as Michael Collins, feminist directors may feel freer to trust unromantic details and scholars may be more tolerant of melodramatic packaging.

The author is Professor of English at Princeton. She is the author of *Hysterical Histories: hysterical epidemics and modern culture*; her next book is *Before Their Time: Women's Epic Lives* (Picador).

Poetry please

ROBIN COOK has been popping into antiquarian bookshops in search of a gift for President Jiang Zemin of China. After many weary hours, Cook has triumphed: he has acquired a treasured edition of Coleridge's poem *Kubla Khan* (depicted right). The gesture was inspired by a potentially damaging conversation the Foreign Secretary had with Mr Jiang during a visit to China this year. Cook told the wrinkle Communist Party supreme, who likes to show off his knowledge of Shakespeare, that Coleridge was in an opium-induced reverie when he wrote the work.

Given the Opium Wars, this might have got the Chinaman hot under his Mao suit. But this was no Cook gaffe. Jiang was fascinated and said he would like to read the poem. Cook also ventured that the opening lines — *In Xanadu did Kubla Khan a stately pleasure-dome decree* — might have been better had the poet not been interrupted in his cottage by a taxman. The President has just replied: "It has greatly enhanced



my understanding of English literature." Cook might be rewarded with a trip to the real Xanadu. The ruins of the Mongol Emperor's summer palace survive in a closed military area of Inner Mongolia. Cook might be an ideal first visitor.

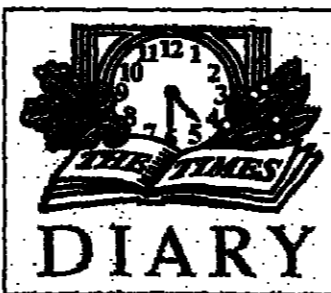
● THE indignities suffered by fallen football managers. During an exciting World Cup game yesterday, Bobby Robson rushed to the loo. Mistakenly, he plumped for the ladies. This excited a Chinese camera crew that attempted to follow the agitated former England coach.

Refuelling

ASIL NADIR might be a fugitive from Britain but he still wields influence in the Med. A BBC crew went to Istanbul to interview him for the forthcoming *Fraudbusters* series. The former Polly Peck chancer enjoyed the opportunity to plead his innocence so much, he begged the crew to eat, drink and be merry long into the night. "We'll miss our plane," moaned the crew, fearing they might follow their BBC colleagues in Yemen by making an unexpectedly extended trip out east.

"Trust me," replied Nadir. "The flight will not take off without you." Nadir won and the BBC waverers boys were impressed to find their plane still waiting. Other passengers were less amused.

● JOHN HANNAH, who made his name and revived W.H. Auden's in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, has decided to abandon booze after his bike left a canal path on the way back from the pub. "One minute I was going along fine, the next, guys were fishing me out with a washing line." Hannah's escapade follows that of the late Lord Wyatt of Weyford, who was praised



DIARY

JASPER GERARD

out of Venice's Grand Canal with a Havana still clamped in his jaws.

Freudian feud

THIS unnerving Lucian Freud portrait, never publicly shown before, depicts Barbara Skelton, the lier-



ary *femme fatale* who loved Cyril Connolly, King Farouk and George Weidenfeld among others. Christie's will fllog the 1950 painting for the first time next month.

Freud painted the piece, which is expected to command £25,000, as a wedding present for Connolly and Skelton, but demurred when he took stock of the fierce result. The marriage was not happy — locked away in her cottage they fought "like a couple of kangaroos", and Connolly fell into a gloom, lounging in bed, sucking sheets and murmuring "Poor Cyril" to himself. Skelton coped by running off with Weidenfeld. When Freud told dear old Cyril about the work years later, Connolly grumbled: "Why didn't you give it to me? I'd never have married her."

● WESTMINSTER Abbey, where tempers are fraying, is to release a CD from its choir: *Perfect Peace*.

Country strife

HARRIET HARMAN has bought a country cottage. Villagers in Walsingham, Norfolk, think the Social Security Secretary has bought the five-bedroom, £160,000 house as a bolt-hole from her problems in the city, and are grumbling about "another Londoner coming down and treating us like a dormitory". But according to her mouthpiece, "Harriet and her sister have clubbed together to buy the house for their mother, and she [Harriet] will only stay there". Very commendable, even if the place, like her career, needs a little "doing up".



JOHN CLEESE has developed an obsession for *Sweet Charity*, the musical now being revived in the West End with Bonnie Langford leading the cast. The erstwhile Minister of Funny Walks, who has never struck me as much of a stage-door johnny, has caught productions of the show (most memorable song: *Hey Big Spender*) ever since its premiere on Broadway in 1966 and its hop to London the following year. Shirley MacLaine and Sammy Davis Jr were in the 1969 film, and there have been revivals on both sides of the Atlantic in the past three decades. Cleese popped up last week to watch Langford play *Charity* and catch *If My Friends Could See Me Now* and *Ricki Lake's Frug*. Langford believes the thrice-married comedian, who co-wrote *Families and How to Survive Them* and *Life and How to Survive It*, is drawn to the show because of the character Oscar, the neurotic accountant. "The first time *Charity* meets Oscar is when they both become trapped in a lift together," says Langford. "Oscar suffers from claustrophobia. *Charity* has to calm him down and from then on you know he is a neurotic. At the end, *Charity* fails for Oscar but he does not come to terms with his demons."

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COOL CYMRU

The force that through the M4 drives the country

"There is no present in Wales," the poet R. S. Thomas once wrote, "and no future. There is only the past, brittle with relics. And an impotent people." Visionary he may be, and one of Wales's most talented adopted sons, but the fiery poet-priest is wrong about his chosen homeland. Wales is enjoying a vibrant present and a better future beckons.

Next week Cardiff is the host city for the final summit of Britain's EU presidency. The choice of the Welsh capital is a fitting acknowledgment of the city's recent renaissance and the principality's broader resurgence. After last year's tentative endorsement of a new assembly, the Welsh are taking confident strides towards a new and valued position in an evolving Britain. The invocation of Cool Britannia may now cause metropolitan cynics to shrug, but the emergence of Cool Cymru is something which no one should feel ashamed to celebrate, on either side of Offa's Dyke.

The wellspring of Welsh renewal has been success in replacing dying industries with sunrise enterprises. The prosperity of South Wales was built on coal and steel but the new concerns which cluster along the M4 corridor encompass a much broader range of industries — from cars to semi-conductors. Although Wales has only one-twentieth of the UK's population it has succeeded in attracting one-sixth of its inward investment, much of it from the Far East, since 1986. Cardiff has benefited from this tsunami of oriental investment, and also from the redevelopment of its own bay area. The renaissance of the city's old docklands may lead to the creation of as many as 30,000 jobs and has transformed a landscape of decay into a magnet for investment. The brittle relics of which Thomas wrote have been cleared away.

The fruits of economic success have not, however, been spread altogether evenly across Wales. Although the golden channel of the M4, running parallel to the Severn, may have swept investment towards the capital, many of the old valleys which once

sent coal and workers to Cardiff are still denuded of growth. The principality's hill-farmers have been particularly badly hit by the decline in agricultural incomes. And the decision to site the new Welsh assembly in Cardiff robbed the more emphatically pro-devolutionary Swansea of a deserved prize. Once the assembly is up and running these grievances deserve to be promptly addressed. Cardiff is a great city but its western sister and its extended hinterland deserve to share in its good fortune.

Devolution in Scotland has, contrary to Labour's claims, found separatist fires rather than dowsing them. But in Wales the advent of an assembly has not been accompanied by any similar secessionist surge. Support for devolution was always less enthusiastic and the political mood now seems to support the institution operating in a pragmatic way, rather than as a spring-board for separatism. Welsh nationalism has always tended to record cultural rather than political successes, winning support for television stations and language boards rather than declarations of independence.

Welsh culture has seldom been stronger, with state support for the language ensuring that a tongue which might have gone the way of Manx and Cornish is now spoken by the Leader of the Opposition, prominent broadcasters and entrepreneurs. The Welsh cultural revival is not restricted to the heirs of the Eisteddfod. Bands such as The Manic Street Preachers and Catatonia have transformed perceptions of Welsh song, and the Welsh National Opera, in an altogether more traditional register, is probably, pound for pound, Britain's best opera company. Far from looking like R. S. Thomas's land of brittle relics, Wales seems to be a land revitalised, its spirit closer to that of Dylan Thomas when he hymned the "force that through the green fuse drives the flower". It is to be hoped that something of that youthful, invigorating force of national pride impresses itself on the diplomatic tourists in Cardiff next week.

A WAR OUT OF TIME

African lessons about our own selves long ago

The sight of Ethiopia and Eritrea locked in bloody close-quarter combat over hills and fields of no intrinsic worth is strangely unsettling. For watchers of Africa this unease may come because the combatants are neighbours ruled by close friends, because they are both pillars of America's much-touted "African renaissance", and had seemed to share a stable future after decades of shared despair. But these are reasons; and reason cannot explain a more general and visceral confusion. The hostilities between Eritrea and Ethiopia are odd, peculiar, a war that is somehow out of time.

This war is being fought between states and fought by soldiers, in an era when most wars are civil conflicts, where the armed avoid each other and instead victimise the defenceless. Wars over lines on a map somehow belong in the 19th century, alongside bizarre encounters like the War of Gran Chaco. The *casus belli* in the Horn is a patch of worthless ground claimed by both sides. But since 1945 borders have been sacrosanct; the weight of international opinion has generally ensured that disputed frontiers become a matter for arbitration, rather than combat; and when disputes have escalated, only intrinsically valuable terrain has been thought to be worth much dying for.

After the battles around Zalambessa, where Ethiopians made frontal assaults with the bayonet on Eritrean trench lines, soldiers spoke of fighting for national pride and the rights of small nations in terms that Kitchener's volunteers of 1914 would have found familiar. The perennial vocabulary of 1990s armed conflict — factions, militias, warlords — has been supplanted by the dimly remembered, anachronistic terminology of conventional warfare — fronts, barrages, offensives. And in an era when the use of force to settle disputes is generally

shunned, both Eritrea and Ethiopia have rejected mediation and embraced their war. It is the combatants' shared belief that they have every right to thrash out their differences on the battlefield that is most unsettling. For both states are (more or less) democracies; and democracies do not go to war. War as the liberal West understands it — groups of armed men fighting each other to further a policy — is, whether intra- or inter-state, the choice of dictators, undertaken to prop up an ailing regime (the invasion of the Falklands), expand a political power base (Slobodan Milosevic), or fill a bankrupt exchequer (Saddam Hussein's seizure of Kuwait). Democracy, on the other hand, provides a pressure-valve against internal conflict and a restraint to international adventurism. Democracies do not choose war; when they do take the field it is as a response to events they have not set in train, and as a last resort when national interest or (more rarely) a point of principle dictates. In our rosy world view, buttressed as we are by Nato, our comparative wealth and stable political systems, war as we understand it is very nearly obsolete. It is certainly no longer undertaken for something as nebulous as national pride.

Yet this is what is at stake in the Horn of Africa. Eritrea is five years old, jealous of the independence that it fought for 30 years to win, and anxious to set itself apart from its larger neighbour; Ethiopia sees its former province as an upstart over-keen to break long links. In grappling with what seems to be the obsolete pointlessness of this war, perhaps we should remember a time when national pride was something more substantial than a buzz of pleasure at a football result — was truly worth fighting for — and understand better what is happening in the Horn of Africa.

TRACK BIKES

New lines for old

The addition of a further 200 miles of disused railway lines to a national cycle network is an inspired decision. At reasonably small cost it adds vital connecting links to a network that already covers 8,000 miles, giving cyclists strategic pathways through urban congestion as well as access, safely separated from cars, to some of Britain's most beautiful countryside.

More importantly, however, the acquisition of the routes by Sustrans, the civil engineering charity, safeguards them for engineering reuse as railway lines. This is of strategic importance at a time when capacity on Britain's rail network is now limiting the rapid growth of passenger and freight traffic.

So many lines have been closed and built over that there are now big bottlenecks in key rail corridors. As rail franchises look at new markets and cross-country routes, and freight operators take advantage of new incentives and opportunities, Railtrack is facing growing congestion on Britain's shrunken network.

The danger now is that disused trackbeds, connecting chords and former sidings which have long laid fallow in state ownership will be sold off quickly to realise property profits. Once sold and turned into shopping centres

or housing estates, the land can almost never be reacquired for a railway. The Government has therefore approved the transfer to Sustrans on the specific undertaking that they will act as custodians of the routes, not prejudicing their future reopening as railways. This is a far better way of keeping the embankments, viaducts and cuttings in good repair than entrusting the routes to local authorities, who would see them as heaven-sent opportunities to build by-passes and relief roads.

Disused viaducts, spectacular additions to countryside architecture, will carry cyclists over the Rhymney Valley or over the River Esk at Whitby; old railway bridges will take them safely across busy roads. Cyclists would not necessarily lose these new paths should rails be relaid. A single track may be enough on rural routes. Already there are proposals to reopen lines in Devon, Derbyshire and in Scotland, some of which could be shared with cyclists.

Over 400 local authorities, whose support is vital in boosting cycling, are involved in the transfer of these routes. Rural councils are already worried by the high accident rate on country roads; they join cyclists and rail planners in welcoming the safe and safeguarded new routes through Britain.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Admission of guilt called in question

From Mrs Joan Rankin

Sir, Your report (June 10) of the man aged 70 who had spent 23 years in prison and has now been found by the Court of Appeal to be innocent is extremely disturbing.

The comment by your reporter that he "would have been released many years ago if he had been prepared to show remorse but he always refused to admit guilt" did not surprise me; but it left me wondering just what is happening to our prison and justice system.

Why does a prisoner have to admit that he committed a crime that he knows he did not do? Have prisoners now to lie to make the Home Office happier and to ensure that the case is cleared up with no loose ends? Another crime solved.

I am a prison visitor and see two prisoners both of whom I am convinced are innocent, as are the families and friends concerned. Both have refused to admit guilt. In a report written on one of the men by the prison authorities was a box entitled "unacceptable behaviour" in which was written "refuses to admit guilt". That was the only criticism the staff could find.

To use moral pressure backed up by the threat of longer and more arduous sentences to make prisoners wrongly admit guilt is no remit of the Home Office and prison officers. Yet this is accepted practice. Why is it never criticised and corrected?

Yours faithfully,
JOAN RANKIN,
4 Spring Gardens,
Harwood, Bolton BL2 3LU.
June 10.

Change in Nigeria

From Mr I. T. Robbins

Sir, We now know the man to succeed the Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha (report and leading article, June 10). He is, of course, yet another general, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, a man whose first task must be to stabilise the country. I believe that Abacha's death will delight the ordinary people of Nigeria. But Abacha's "people" remain only the figurehead has changed and therefore different policies, if any, will be slow to materialise.

It is of course a time of great optimism for all who want to see a democratic Nigeria, but one has to consider that Abacha wiped out the country's political infrastructure to such an extent that free and fair elections are almost an impossibility. It is therefore pointless for Robin Cook and others to call for them (report, June 9).

Nigeria's only salvation lies with Chief Moshod Abiola. Successive British governments and the Commonwealth, whose Secretary-General is himself a Nigerian, have displayed an apparent lack of interest in the wellbeing of the imprisoned presumed winner of the aborted 1993 elections.

Chief Abiola's election success has been enhanced, not diminished, by the four years he has spent in solitary confinement. He has demonstrated his commitment to democracy in Nigeria and has been failed by professional politicians who pay only lip service to it.

Yours faithfully,
TOM ROBBINS
(Personal Assistant to
Chief Abiola, 1993-95),
3 Norton Hall Lane, Norton Canes,
Staffordshire WS11 3PG.
June 10.

Back to the future?

From Mr Barrie N. Warren

Sir, What a terrible dream. I dreamed that Mrs Thatcher had been deserted by her party and John Major took her place. Then, despite a "golden economy", he lost the election.

Thankfully, when I woke up this morning, I saw that the Chancellor was privatising air traffic control, the Tate, the Royal Mint, etc. Phew, what a nightmare!

Yours faithfully,
B. N. WARREN,
8 Woodside,
Dulwich, SE26 6SS.
June 12.

From Mr Roger Cookson

Sir, Would an investment in the Royal Mint (reports, June 12) bring a licence to print money?

Yours faithfully,
ROGER COOKSON,
20 Temple Fortune Lane, NW11 7UD.
June 12.

Living well

From Mr Geoffrey E. Barlow

Sir, I have recently purchased some claret from Tanners in Shrewsbury who tell me that it will be at its best in 2015. This year will find me knocking 82 years of age.

So that my sons cannot get their hands on it, my GP has instructions to administer the wine to me intravenously.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY E. BARLOW,
10 Southgate Avenue,
Trentham,
Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8XU.
June 12.

Genetic research: aid or danger to science and nature?

From Mr Arthur Dickon

Sir, The developing science of "genetic engineering" (reports, June 8 and 9; Libby Purves, June 9) has enormous potential. I believe, to improve the lot of mankind. But it is receiving the same treatment meted out by protesters who feared the edge of the world, who opposed as unnatural the development of mechanical locomotion, and who more recently forced the wrong solution to oil-platform decommissioning.

The crusade against genetic engineering is being carried out with the same lack of vision, absence of scientific understanding and denial of logical analysis, backed by populist appeal to a human fear of the unknown.

There has always been, and always will be, opposition to progress related to man's innate fear of change and uncertainty. All that is new today is the pious and pseudo-scientific indignation which is used to support the reactionary cause.

The practice of genetic engineering is developing through a growing scientific understanding of the role of genes in the natural process through which life itself has developed. There is no doubt about the need for appropriate care, control and caution in these breakthrough developments.

If the anti-progress groups are allowed to mount the loudest argument, mankind may be deprived of a great contribution, not just to the quality of our lives, but to the defeat of two of the apocalyptic threats to human survival — famine and disease.

Another landmark development in human knowledge and in beneficial scientific development is under threat from the flat-earth brigade.

Yours sincerely,
ARTHUR DICKON
(Group Manufacturing
Manager, ICI, 1995-97),
Merry Acre, Dale Brow,
Prestbury, Cheshire SK10 4BH.

From Mr Tony Gilland

Sir, Libby Purves cites last week's *Guardian*/ICM poll as evidence that the vast majority of people want to avoid genetically modified (GM) food. But, as she acknowledges, most people know very little about the issue, so how can we be sure what they think?

For example, a Gallup poll commissioned by the Iceland food chain found that the number of respondents with reservations about the technology rose from 63 per cent to 77 per cent when a definition was given explaining how genes have been transferred from Arctic fish to tomatoes and from humans to pigs.

Such a reaction, when people know little about the technology, is hardly surprising. The danger is that survey results of this type are used to argue prematurely that consumers don't want GM food products.

To have a proper public debate on the issue, the public must be given a clear explanation of what the technology involves, the benefits and any potential problems.

It is wrong to jump to conclusions about what people think before they have had a chance to make up their own minds.

Yours sincerely
TONY GILLAND
(Director, Open Dialogue),
23 Roslyn Road,
London N15 5JB.
tony@easy.net.co.uk
June 9.

From Mr A. J. Dilly

Sir, Mankind has been genetically modifying food organisms since the dawn of agriculture, progressively refining techniques over the centuries. All food sold to the public is "genetically modified"; we are simply able to do it better and much more precisely now.

"Environmentalists" (and I am one) should applaud the principle of genetically engineered food crops. It offers the prospect of nitrogen-fixing, pest-resistant strains which are vastly preferable to the costly fertiliser and pesticide used now.

These chemicals cause huge damage to wildlife and its habitats. I don't know what they do to people.

Yours etc,
TONY DILLEY,
46 Ambleside Drive,
Spalding,
Lincolnshire PE11 1UU.
tony@trollius.demon.co.uk
June 10.

From Mr David Jackson

Sir, I think the Prince of Wales is talking sense about the dangers of genetic engineering.

Whilst nature also shuffles genes, the shuffling is done gradually, one tiny step at a time. The results are hardly noticeable and only become so after many generations — that is, provided the organism and all its forefathers have survived in the natural world along the way.

More to the point, the possibility of the organism becoming too successful and destroying others is reduced by giving time for those other species to adapt and compete.

The scientists are thus making two mistakes: they are shuffling genes too dramatically and they are turning the fundamental evolutionary mechanism on its head by deciding what is desirable first and then changing genes to suit.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID JACKSON,
Quill Cottage,
The Old School, Church Road,
Milton-under-Wychwood,
Oxfordshire OX7 6LJ.
dbj100@aol.com
June 11.

Cup that cheers, or not

From Mr Leon Novik

Sir, I read Magnus Linklater today with much amusement. The Tartan Army's boast that it is the best behaved in the world cannot be denied, but I feel that they are missing out on a great opportunity during the rest of the World Cup.

Although we wish them well, their chances of getting to the final stages of the cup are slim. Might I suggest that, like many armies in the past, the Scottish supporters offer their services for sale to teams from other countries, thus capitalising on their acknowledged fame, enhancing Scotland's reputation abroad and at the same time boosting Scotland's exports.

Yours sincerely,
L. NOVIK,
Apartment G2,
14 Trajalgar Street, Clydebank,
Dunbartonshire G81 4ED.
June 11.

floorlights such an outfit is bound to dazzle the opposing attackers.

Yours faithfully,
JASON BARBOUR,
19 Corney Road, SW6 3QA.
June 11.

From Mrs Jean Wood

Sir, Is the whole country in thrall to lager-swilling jobs, both on and off the pitch, assisted by the television and press? No wonder some of them beat their wives or girlfriends, when they are led to believe the only thing that matters is football.

I suppose most people have an interest in the competition, keeping up with who's winning, but do we need commentators talking endless drivel and giving us useless information on the trivia of the game and the players?

Yours sincerely,
JEAN WOOD,
26 Barrowby Road, Granttham,
Lincolnshire NG31 6PD.
June 12.

State lotteries

From Professor W. Johnson, FRS, FEag

Sir, Like Matthew Parris ("Lottery is there", June 5), I am struck by the parallels between our own age and the 18th century regarding lotteries; but I'm afraid his remarks will alter little of humanity's universal weakness for them.

Legal lotteries are at least two millennia old. They were held by the Emperor Augustus to help finance building projects, no less than they are today, and they were in use in Europe as early as the 15th century, mainly to benefit churches, schools and public works.

England's first recorded lottery was patronised by Elizabeth I in 1567. A state lottery held in 1739 to finance the building of a bridge at Westminster evoked the lines:

The Name of a Lottery the Nation bewiches,
The City and Country run Mad after
Riches.

Ticket-holders could not then easily be present at the draw, and safeguards against deception were not as available as they are today, thanks largely to television. Private lotteries were tolerated, but those run by the State were not, because corruption was thought to be so easy.

England prohibited private (unlicensed) lotteries in 1698. None at all were licensed after 1824 until the present day. Cavour, the 19th-century Italian statesman, referred to them as a desperate attraction to the poor who could least afford them and as "a tax upon imbeciles".

Yours faithfully,
W. JOHNSON,
Ridge Hall, Chapel-en-le-Frith,
High Peak, Derbyshire SK23 9UD.
June 11.

Caring for the carers

From Dr Andrew Bamji

Sir, Your report today a new government initiative to help carers.

For many years my unit has successfully run a respite care scheme to help the carers of severely disabled people. Clients have an overnight stay, which enables them to have two days therapy and gives their carer a night off. However, a change in the interpretation of regulations governing the clients' allowances about a year ago has seriously damaged our ability to do this.

Previously the days of admission and discharge were not counted as inpatient days, and now they are. Thus each overnight stay counts as two inpatient days instead of none, and clients rapidly clock up a total of inpatient days that results in a significant reduction in their benefits. Some clients have decided they no longer wish to have a "bed share" for this reason, and we have found that they, and their carers, have suffered.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW BAMJI
(Director,
Elmstead Younger Disabled Unit),
Queen Mary's Hospital,
Sidcup, Kent DA14 6LT.
andrew_bamji@compuserve.com
June 11.

From Mr Michael Mabbs

Sir, There seems to be a soccer competition in progress across the channel. Today BBC radio said that later I can hear commentary on "the whole of France versus South Africa". Isn't that rather unfair?

Yours etc,
MICHAEL MABBS,
Mombasa House, The Downs,
Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8LY.
June 12.

I raised the issue with the Department of Social Security last autumn, asking that the regulations be reviewed. Some five months after writing, my only response was a two-page letter that has clearly been sent to every person that has written about anything, and contains no reference whatever to my query.

If this initiative is to "gladden the hearts of carers" (as Baroness Pakenham of the Carers National Association put it) then the Government should listen, and respond. I am impressed by the deafening, even arrogant, ministerial silence that has followed my query, and Downing Street tea parties will cut little ice until the simple courtesies of correspondence are reimposed.

Counting antlers

From the Editor of Stalking Magazine

Sir, Derwent May is correct in saying that the Game Fair at Stratfield Saye House, Hampshire, "is to country activities what the Motor Show is to motoring" (article, Weekend, June 6).

However, his exhortation to visitors to measure the antlers of the six species of deer living wild in Britain is wide of the mark, as the Chinese water deer has no antlers. The males of the five other species: red, roe, fallow, sika and muntjac, do carry antlers, which they cast and regrow every year.

Yours etc,
CHRISTOPHER BORTHEIN,
Editor, *Stalking Magazine*,
PO Box 372, Exeter EX5 5YL.

Roadside advice

From Mr Mike Crow

Sir, If the Perthshire "Plots for sale" noted by Sir Robert Sanders (letter, June 10) don't provide the budding author with a flourishing product, perhaps the disappointed writer could take the advice of a sign by the A9 just south of Perth which invites the passing motorist to "Bag your own manure".

Yours faithfully,
MIKE CROW,
Iryanga, 8 Balgibbin Drive,
Cullander, Perthshire FK17 8EU.
mancrow@aol.com

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Who was that again?

From Mrs Christine White

Sir, Friends and acquaintances of those named Tom, Dick and Harry have it easy.

One can only imagine the difficulties encountered by the companions of *Togidubnus* (or *Cogidubnus*), *Cumobelinus* and *Caractacus* (letters, June 11) after a few pints in the local on a Friday night.

Yours faithfully,
C. M. WHITE,
139a High Street North,
Stewkley, Leighton Buzzard,
Bedfordshire LU7 0EX.
June 11.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 12: The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Fellow and Visitor, this afternoon visited the Applied Art Summer Show at the Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
June 12: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning presided at a meeting of the Prince's Council at Buckingham Gate, Westminster, London.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 12: The Duke of York this afternoon visited the 1998 International Air Show at Middle Wallop Airfield, Hampshire. His Royal Highness this evening attended the Helmet Dinner at the Army School of Aviation, Middle Wallop.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 12: The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, The King's Royal Hussars, this afternoon received Lieutenant Colonel Adrian Bradshaw upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer and Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Fox upon assuming the appointment. Her Royal Highness, President, the Missions to Seamen, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, this evening attended a Dinner at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, South East London.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 12: The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, this evening attended the British Medical Society's Biennial Dinner at the House of Lords.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
June 12: The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal Armouries Development Trust, this evening opened the Kremlin exhibition at the Tower of London.

Royal engagements

TODAY: The Queen will take the salute at the Queen's birthday parade, Horse Guards Parade, 11.00.
Prince Edward will re-open the Hyde Tennis Club at Waltham, Bripport, at 3.00.

TOMORROW: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and twelfth member of the Lord's Taverners, will attend a Patron's v President's charity cricket match at the Home Park cricket ground, Windsor, at 3.00. Later, as trustee, will attend the Prince Philip Trust Fund for the Windsor and Maidenhead royal gala show, Theatre Royal, Windsor, at 7.25.
Princess Alexandra, patron, will attend an Art Garfunkel concert in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust at the London Palladium at 7.25.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy & Royal Marines
Commander, A D Bell - Nato Def Coll 31.9.98; R A Dossy - SA Bath 10.10.98; G R N Foster - OR 9.10.98; J R Gifford - SA Derbyshire CALEDONIA CES 8.12.98; Rev M J J Hill - Core MFP 30.6.98.
Retirement
J R Haydon - placed on Red list 12.8.98.

Royal Air Force
Group Captain: J M Ponsonty - MOD, 19.6.98
Wing Commander: G I August - RAF PMA, 15.6.98.
Retirement
Group Captain: G T Keith 15.6.98.

Service luncheon

19th King George V's Own Lancers
Former officers of the 19th King George V's Own Lancers and their ladies held their annual luncheon yesterday at the St. Edmund's Club, Captain Lord Weatherill presided.

Dinners

Feltmakers' Company
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, were entertained by Mr Peter Grant, Master of the Feltmakers' Company, and Mrs Grant and the Wardens and their ladies at a dinner held last night at the Mansion House, Miss Betty Boothroyd, MP, also spoke. During the evening the Lord Mayor presented Mrs Dagmar Childs, from the Royal College of Art, with the Feltmaker Award for 1998.

Royal College of Radiologists

Dr R.D. Hunter, Warden of the Faculty of Clinical Physics and the Royal College of Radiologists, and Mrs Hunter were the hosts at a dinner held last night at 38 Portland Place for members of the education board.

David Lloyd George Memorial Lecture

Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, delivered the David Lloyd George Memorial Lecture at the annual Criccieth Festival held yesterday in Capel Mreita, Llanysymudwy, Gwynedd. Lloyd George's boyhood home.

University news

Oxford
The John Pearce Memorial Prizes in Surgery for 1998 have been awarded to the following:
S M Collin, Green College; E H H Jones, Christ Church; M W Wilson, Keble College.

Cambridge
Darwin College
Professor Ananya Kumar, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, has been elected into Honorary Fellowship.

CVCP Council

The following have been elected members of the Council of the Committee Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom from August:
Dr Kenneth Edwards, Vice-Chancellor, Brunel University, Uxbridge; Sir John Kingman, Bristol University; Dr Peter Kenyon, University of Birmingham; Mr James Wright, Newcastle University; Dr Geoffrey Wootton, Warwick University; Professor Sir John Armitage, Strathclyde University; Professor Robert Cross, Essex University; Professor Roger Handberg, University of Wales, Lampeter; Professor Sir Gareth Roberts, Sheffield University.

John C. Whitehead Lecture

The American Ambassador delivered the inaugural John C. Whitehead lecture on Anglo-American relations to the Royal Institute of International Affairs last night at the Chatham House. Sir Timothy Garden, director of the Institute, presided. Mr John C. Whitehead was present.

Latest wills

John Lionel Garton Corbett, of Alford, Hampshire, left estate valued at £4,524,224 net.
He left £2,000 each to St. Michael's Church, Lochbuie, Isle of Mull.
Marja Buhagiar, of London, NW3, left estate valued at £1,051,307 net.
Hilary Lloyd O'Heffernan, of Chillingham, Devon, left estate valued at £1,201,390 net.
He left £10,000 to Torquay Lawn Tennis Club.
Brian Henry Biles, of London, SW6, left estate valued at £1,744,043 net.
He left £300 to the Savile Club.



James Bromley-Challoner and Susan Adkins, of Kensington, West London, who recently announced their engagement

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Major Sir Ralph Anstruther, treasurer emeritus to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother; 77; Mr David Curry, MP, 54; Sir Reginald Doyle, former HM Chief Inspector of Fire Services; 69; Professor Inga-Stina Ewbank, former Professor of English Literature, Leeds University; 66; Mr Gwynne Howell, opera singer; 60; Lord Hylton, 66; Mr Tom King, CH, MP, 65; Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards, Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan; 65; Mr Malcolm McDowell, actor; 55; Brigadier William Magan, former M15 director and author; 90; Sir Peter Marychurch, former director, GCHQ; 71; Mr Michael Melluish, former president, MCC; 66; Dr Barbara Reynolds, lexicographer; 84; Colonel Sir John Ruggles-Brise, former Lord-Lieutenant of Essex; 90; Mr Peter Scudamore, former jockey; 40; Mrs Mary Whitehouse, founder and president emerita, National Viewers' and Listeners' Association; 88; Mr Andreas Whitam Smith, former Editor, *The Independent*; 61.

TOMORROW: Dr Sir James Black, FRCS, pharmacologist; 74; Mr Paul Boateng, MP; 47; Professor Peter Fowler, archaeologist; 62; Miss Steffi Graf, tennis player; 29; Lady Healey, writer; 80; Mr Stuart Holmes, registrar (protocol), Westminster Abbey; 50; Mr David LeRoy-Lewis, former chairman, Henry Ansbacher Holdings; 80; Mrs Yvonne Moore, chief nursing officer, Department of Health; 57; Sir Gerrard Peat, chartered accountant; 78; Mr Jonathan Raban, author; 56; Lord Rathcavan, 59; Dame Rosemary Rue, former president, BMA; 70; Mr Antony Sher, actor and writer; 49; Professor Lord Smith of Clifton; 61; Mr James Wright, Vice-Chancellor, Newcastle upon Tyne University; 59; Mr Mike Yarwood, impressionist; 57.

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Thomas Arnold, educator, Cowes, 1795; Sir Charles Parsons, pioneer of the steam turbine, London, 1854; W.B. Yeats, poet, dramatist, Senator of the Irish Free State, Nobel laureate; 1923, Dublin, 1865; Jules Bordet, bacteriologist, Nobel laureate; 1919, Soignies, Belgium, 1870; Basil Rathbone, actor, South Africa, 1892; Dr A.A. Griffith, aeronautical engineer, London, 1893; Dorothy L. Sayers, detective story writer and scholar, Oxford, 1893.

DEATHS: Alexander the Great, King of Macedonia, Iraq, 323 BC; Sir Henry Segrave, holder of speed records on land and water, killed on Windermere, 1930; Martin Buber, philosopher, Jerusalem, 1965; Benny Goodman, clarinetist, Manhattan, 1986.
Queen Victoria became the first British monarch to travel by train, on a journey from Slough to Paddington, 1842. The first flying bomb, the V1, hit London, 1944.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Thomas Pennant, naturalist, Downing, Flintshire, 1726; Harriet Beecher Stowe, novelist, Litchfield, 1811; John McCormack, tenor, Athlone, 1884; Che Guevara, guerrilla leader, Rosario, Argentina, 1928.

DEATHS: James Short, optician and astronomer, London, 1768; Benedict Arnold, American Revolution officer, later a traitor, London, 1801; Jerome K. Jerome, author, Northampton, 1927; Emmeline Pankhurst, suffragette, London, 1928; G.K. Chesterton, writer, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, 1935; Maxim Gorky, novelist, Gorky, 1936; John Logie Baird, pioneer of television, Bexhill, Sussex, 1946; Bernard Miles, actor, founder of the Mermaid Theatre, London, 1991.

Royalists defeated by Cromwell's New Model Army at Naseby, 1645.
Germans entered Paris, 1940.
Josephine, youngest daughter of Dr Peter Tillman, also of Jersey.



The Prince of Wales arriving at the House of Lords where he had lunch before making his maiden speech

A PACKED HOUSE OF LORDS CHEERS THE PRINCE OF WALES'S MAIDEN SPEECH

By Philip Webster, Parliamentary Staff
The Prince of Wales, making his maiden speech in the House of Lords yesterday, called for better coordination of leisure facilities to meet the challenge of "removing the dead hand of boredom and frustration from mankind".
He was speaking in a packed House in a debate, initiated by Lord Cobham, chairman of the Outward Bound Trust, on the reports from the Lords Select Committee on Sport and Leisure.
In a 16-minute speech briskly delivered and containing several humorous passages, the Prince was often cheered. He spoke from the cross-benches and seated on his right was his cousin, the Duke of Kent, and in front of him Lord Snowden.
The Prince said the fact that the debate was taking place at all indicated that there was a difficulty regarding recreation.
There was inevitably a danger of telling people how their leisure time should be spent. That was not the objective. But if leisure time

ON THIS DAY June 13, 1974

The Prince of Wales's maiden speech in the House of Lords - on sport and leisure - was warmly received by their lordships. He said that he rose with fear and trembling after discovering it had been about 100 years since a member of his family had spoken there.
He was employed anti-socially by some people it was worth trying to encourage more healthy pastimes.
He supported the select committee's recommendation that the Government should develop the essential impetus to encourage local government to create recreational facilities and departments.
He concluded his remarks to loud cheers, saying: "This report must awaken us to the challenge of removing the dead hand of boredom and frustration from mankind. If it can be done, it can be done in Britain."
The Prince had begun his speech by saying

he had discovered it was about a hundred years since a member of his family had spoken in the House. On an earlier occasion three dukes had taken part in a debate and, getting up one after the other, had attacked each other so vehemently that the House was shocked into silence. Amid laughter, he said he would not use the same tactics on his cousin today.
Oscar Wilde had once said: "If a thing is worth doing it is worth doing badly," the truth of which he would leave peers to decide or debate after he had said so.
Lord Shepherd, Lord Privy Seal, said that in all his experience he could not recall a speech of such character, so beautifully delivered.
Among those in the packed public gallery was Miss Laura Jo Watkins, the daughter of an American admiral and a friend of the Prince. After his speech, she left with Mrs Walter Annenberg, wife of the American Ambassador.
Worth quoting badly: Mr Frank Muir, who takes part in the BBC radio programme *My Word*, said last night that the saying the Prince quoted should have been attributed to G.K. Chesterton, not Oscar Wilde. "If a thing is worth quoting, it is worth quoting badly," Mr Muir added.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
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FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS
HESLOP - On June 9th at the Portland Hospital, to Alison and David Hestlop, a daughter, Jeannette Elizabeth.
HUGHES - On 2nd June to Sophie and David Hughes, a son, Philip, a second beautiful son, Max Edward Ascher.
HWATA - On June 8th at the Portland Hospital to Alan and Patricia, a daughter, Anna.
KIBBLE - On June 2nd in Tokyo to Amanda and Christopher, a son, Joshua Michael Hope.
LILLEY - On Tuesday June 2nd 1998 at Llandough Hospital, Vale of Glamorgan, to Samantha and Nicholas, a beautiful daughter, Alice Megan.
MORRISON - On June 1st 1998 to Mark and Sally (nee Pearson), a son, Edward William Harcourt.
NEASHAM - On 10th June at South Cleveland Hospital, Middlesbrough, to Lynn (nee Bosomworth) and Stephen, a daughter, Grace Alexandra.
ROWE - On June 10th to Alyssa and Peter, a daughter, Eleanor Mary. Our thanks to Mr Wagstaff, Charlie Tinkley and the Obstetric team at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
WACHTEL - On May 27th at the Portland Hospital to Victoria (nee Galbraith) and Adam, a daughter, Elizabeth May.
WARREN - On 7th June 1998 to Charles and Sarah (nee Mather), a daughter, Isabella. Our thanks to Mr Alexander. God's blessing keep flowing.

DEATHS
BENTLEY - Sir William Bentley, 82, father and grandfather, after a fishing accident on 10th June. Private cremation. Donations if wished to Macmillan Fund.
BECAT - Joffre died peacefully on 7th June. Loving father of Anna and grandfather to Matthew, Nicky, Tony and Patrick. Funeral Mass at St. James' Church, Frobese Street, Brighton on Friday 19th June at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations if wished to Cancer Research. Enquiries to W.C. Miller, 93-95 Essex Road, NL 0171 225 3888.
COBBE - Mary, peacefully in hospital on 11th June in her 94th year. Beloved wife of the late Alan. Greatly loved mother and grandmother of Angela, Mike and Robert and her seven grandchildren. Private cremation followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at 4.30pm on Friday 19th June at St. Mary's, West Malling. No flowers please but, if desired, donations to NSPCC.
COHEN - Susan (nee Wiseman) died 8th June. Beloved wife of Colin, dearest mother of Rachel and daughter of Marie. Funeral private. Donations if wished to Macmillan Fund, Freeport PO10 1BZ London E1 8BB.
COOKSON - Catherine Ann D.B.E. D.Litt. M.A. Beloved wife of Thomas Henry died peacefully at home 11th June 1998 aged 91 years. Private cremation to be followed by Memorial Service, date to be announced later.

FORESTER - Dorothy Ellen, widow of Cecil Scott Forester, peacefully at White Lodge Residential Home, Augustines, St. 10th June 1998. Funeral Service at Worthing Crematorium on Friday 19th June at 2.00pm. No flowers by special request but donations if wished to RNTB. Cheques should be made payable to RNTB and sent c/o F.A. Holland and Sons, 18 Ash Lane, Rushington, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN16 2ZZ.
HARDY - Daisy Joan, formerly of Fyningbourne near Whitby, peacefully after a long illness. Much loved aunt of Robert, Alan, John and Andrew, sister of the late Donald Hardy and sister-in-law of Carol Pickering. Funeral St. Stephen's Parish Church, Fyningbourne, Whitby 3pm Wednesday 17th June 1998.
EDWARDS - Ralph, Group Captain RAF, for 60 years devoted husband and latterly carer of Marjorie, died peacefully in Devon 11th June aged 92. Funeral private. Donations if desired to the RAF Benevolent Fund.
EVANS - Dr Christopher of Hampstead died peacefully at Frybar, Isles of Scilly aged 89 years. Funeral at Colindale Crematorium, 12 noon 19th June. Funeral Directors, Levanita & Sons Ltd, 181 Havestock Hill, London NW3.
EVERED - Kit passed peacefully away at home at Checkendon, Oxfordshire on 11th June 1998 aged 57 years. Much loved wife of David and mother of Libby, Susie and Alex, and grandmother of Fleur. Funeral at the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Checkendon on Thursday 18th June at 4.30 pm. Flowers may be sent to Sherlock and Sons, Trillick House, Dorling.
FURNESS - Agnes Robson (nee Walker) peacefully at home on June 11th 1998 aged 90. Wife of the late Percy Furness and dearly loved Nanna to Shirley and David. Funeral service at St. Peter's Church, Barking, Essex on Friday June 19th at 1.15 pm. No flowers please.

MEMORIAL SERVICES
TILLMAN - Malka, A Memorial Service will be held on Sunday 28th June 1998 at 4.30pm at the New West End Synagogue, 10 St. Peterburgh, W2 4TL.
IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE
HARLE - In ever loving memory of Carol Sybil Mary who died on June 13th 1971.
HOWELL - Bridget, Always in our thoughts, Leach and Poles.
WERNER - Professor J.S. Wilton DSc F.R.C.P. Remembering with love, dearest Joe who is always in our thoughts, Marjorie, Julia and Edmund.
ANNOUNCEMENTS
SEPPLE - Roger Charles Friend on 9th June peacefully at Plymouth aged 88. Beloved and loving husband, father, grandfather and brother. Funeral Service at Emmanuel Church, Plymouth on 11.15 am on Monday 15th June. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Church Urban Fund 3 Great Street, London SW1P 3LX.
TO place obituaries, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

ANNOUNCEMENTS
ITALIAN Club, 14 years old seats. English. £2000 for seats. 7pm. 020 29 29263/4.
NEED TO INVESTMENT? (Company) Capital, member WAC, 7th Floor, 100, Broad Street, 1998. Write George Robinson, 80022 St. John's, London W14 9JH. 020 29 29263/4. 020 29 29263/4. 020 29 29263/4.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Trust. Generously needs £100,000 to complete purchase of 10000. Contact: Ann. Details 01208 651134.
THE RAF RISES to the Challenge
RAF 1910 the Fund has been helping RAF and ex-RAF members, widows and dependents, including many thousands disabled during the war and in service ever. Last year alone the Fund spent over 12.4 million helping people directly. Please help with a donation or membership to us year till. Will You Rise to the Challenge Test?
The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, 83 Portland Place, London, W1P 4AP.
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BOOKS WANTED Acquisitions, second hand and modern books on all subjects. Please send your collection. Best prices paid. Will collect from anywhere. Contact: Bay on Way Booksellers, 14 High Street, London W1P 4AP. Tel: 0171 481 9313. Fax: 0171 481 9313.
TICKETS FOR SALE
ALL ANIMAL Catalogue, All Types, 10000. Contact: 0171 481 9313.
ASCOT Connoisseurs, Ladies Day tickets, 6 available. Prices from £200. Details 01273 826646.
WILSON on 21st June, dearest, beloved, always available on all days. Call Ann on 01208 651134.
WILSON on 21st June, dearest, beloved, always available on all days. Call Ann on 01208 651134.
FOR SALE
A BRITISH Newspaper, Outlook, 10000. Contact: 01208 651134.
YORK PENNANT, state, memorabilia. Contact: 01208 651134.
COURT & SOCIETY
Please send your name and address to: Mrs J. Williams, Court & Society, 10000. Contact: 01208 651134.
Advertisement Rate is £12.50 per line.

OBITUARIES

JOHNNY JOHNSTON

Johnny Johnston, popular song writer, died on June 10 aged 78. He was born on July 10, 1919.



Johnston "King of the Jingles" relaxing at his home in Hertfordshire

Johnny Johnston was at the centre of the outburst of advertising on television with the launch of ITV in 1955. He became the "king of the jingles" and was responsible for some of the classic jingles of the day. For Fairy Liquid "the hands that do dishes can be as soft as your face"; "Raelbrook Toplin, the shirt you don't iron"; "Benz means Heinz"; "The ESSO sign means happy motoring"; and "I'm going well on Shell", which was recorded by Bing Crosby and Sammy Davis. His knack of getting the message over in a short, fast jingle made him a huge success and in his career he wrote and produced in his own studios, over 4,500 of them.

He had developed this knack over a period of writing signature tunes for radio shows in the 1930s, among which were the musical openings of *Take It From Here* and *The Show Band Show*. He also formed the vocal groups that sang these, the Keynotes for *Take It From Here*, the Bows and the Bells for *The Ted Ray Show*, the Bandits for *The Billy Cotton Band Show*, the Johnston Choir for *The Show Band Show*, from which he developed the Johnston Brothers who had a hit recording of *Hey There*, and *Fernando's Hideaway* from *The West End Show The Pajama Game*.

Johnston was born in comparatively humble circumstances but taught himself how to play the piano. In the early days, he played for Vera Lynn; they maintained a friendship throughout his life. When the war broke out he

joined the Army and was commissioned into the Essex Regiment. His habit of spending every off-duty hour playing the piano in nightclubs soon attracted the attention of his commanding officer, and was rewarded by his being sent to Nairobi. It was here that he met his future wife, and he was soon playing the piano in the local clubs - all out of bounds.

Eventually the military police got fed up with him, and on the basis of "if you can't beat them, join them", he became a poacher turned gamekeeper and got himself seconded to the Corps of Military Police. He was then sent back to the Far East, where he rose to the rank of major.

On demobilisation he went into the music business as a song pluggery with the Sun Music Company, and started to write songs. His first success was written with Tommy Connor, and was a sequel to the wartime hit, *Lily Marlene* called *The Wedding of Lily Marlene*. He then formed Michael Reine Music Company using the maiden name of his wife Nona who ran the office and did the books. He was eventually joined by Bill Cotton as his partner, who later became a television producer at the BBC.

The firm had immediate success with two songs for which he wrote the music, and which were recorded by Vera Lynn: *The Homing Waltz* which went to number one in

the charts, and *Forget Me Not*, which reached the top five. These were followed by the publication of three hits from America that helped to bring Alma Cogan to fame: *Bill Bottom Blues*, *Can't Tell A Waltz From A Tango*, and *Nancy Do A Tango With an Eskimo*, the theme song from a television show at the time, which became a hit recording for the Billy Cotton Band. To exploit this particular song, Johnston paid a busking band that used to play in Oxford Street, *The Happy Wanderers*, to march up and down Tin Pan Alley, playing it all day, to the consternation of all the other publishers in the street.

At this time his pride and joy was his home at Boxmoor, where he entertained in his

typically generous style. He converted a barn into a snooker room, with a bar attached, and the place was usually buzzing with his friends from all walks of life.

With the success of his jingle writing, he had to move to Geneva, as much for the convenience of his business, which had now spread to Europe and South Africa, as for tax purposes. In this part of his business he was helped enormously by the fact that Nona was a White Russian by birth, a Frenchwoman by education and a Briton by marriage, capable of moving about Europe with ease and elegance. When Nona became ill he returned to England, and on her death, settled in London.

Throughout his life Johnston loved making music. He was a star turn at the advertising festivals, where at the end of the day he would play the piano until the audience or himself dropped from exhaustion. Once in the 1950s he heard that some handicapped children from Carlsholm were going to sing *Forget Me Not* in a Christmas broadcast. He immediately filled the back of his car with presents and went to the hospital, playing for a sing-song that went on for hours. He could play any tune - always the way everyone wanted to hear it.

Over the last few years his health was not of the best, but he never gave up, and kept his great sense of humour and his wit. He could be found with his loyal circle of friends in a local hostelry, often wheeled there by his close friend Mike Frewin, straight from the King Edward VII Hospital, while recuperating from one of his several operations.

He leaves a daughter Vicky.

ROBERT LUSH

Robert Lush, hotel designer, died on May 28 aged 67. He was born on September 9, 1930.

BOB LUSH was an interior design specialist who built up his business, Richmond International, into the biggest of its kind in Europe and, at one time, the second largest in the world. The Dorchester in Park Lane, reopened by the Duke of Edinburgh in 1990 following its extensive renovation, was among his triumphs. Another was the Café de la Paix in Paris, completely restored by Lush who won an international competition for the contract in 1976.

Eight years later he was called in to restore Brighton's Grand Hotel following the IRA bomb there during the 1984 Conservative Party conference. He created the Langham Hilton from a block of BBC offices and studios and refurbished the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, for which he also won an award.

But the list of grand hotels, new and old, which bear his imprint, is a long one. It includes the Amstel in Amsterdam, the Carlton in Cannes, the Villa Magna in Madrid, the Balmoral in Edinburgh and several in Paris, such as the Grande, the Hotel Loti and the Prince de Galles. In one 12-month period alone his design staff (numbering 80 in the late 1980s) were responsible for 12 new international hotels - an average of one a month.

The job description "interior designer" hardly reflects the scope of Lush's interests and work. This embraced not only the décor but also the internal structure and lay-out, and he worked closely with the architect on new projects. As for his work on existing buildings, he could conjure up more bedrooms out of nowhere by skilful planning and more adroit use of space.

Yet Robert Lush began his career making theatre sets - and could equally well have become an academic. He was born in Wimbledon, the son of a research chemist, and as a young chorister sang at King George VI's coronation. He later went to King's College School, Wimbledon, where he showed early ability and won a place at Cambridge to read history.

He then, to his father's

horror, turned it down. A gifted draughtsman with a love of painting, he declared that he wanted to design sets for the theatre. He thus spent several years in repertory, at Worthing and, at one time, Wolverhampton, creating and producing new backdrops every week. He also worked on a number of ballets and on the set for Frankie Howard in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

His talent even bore fruit during National Service in the RAF. His commanding officer was himself so fond of painting that he held art competitions, to which all airmen were expected to contribute. As the only one in his billet with either the ability or the inclination, Lush painted all their entries for a small fee - varying the style in each case. But his own, painted in his own style, invariably won.

Back in civilian life, Lush's interests were starting to spread outside the theatre and into the interior design of private homes. His first big break he owed to the late Billy Wallace, the socialite and one-time escort of Princess Margaret. Wallace commissioned him to decorate the guest bedroom and accompanying bathroom of his country house, Bagnor Manor, near Newbury, Berkshire, where Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother at one time stayed during Newbury races. Lush painted the local flora and fauna on the green wallpaper, achieving such a breathtaking result that his work featured in a book of interior designs. It also led to a number of other similar orders.

His other big break then came through his involvement with an old friend Ralph Jaques in a firm called Richmond Joinery, and its 1966 offshoot Richmond Design. The developer Stephen Kennedy approached Lush at the Richmond Design Group to help design the Kennedy Hotel in North London. This in turn brought him to the notice of Grand Metropolitan Hotels and Sir Maxwell Joseph. There developed a close working relationship, as well as a lasting friendship, with both Joseph and his wife.

Lush never looked back thereafter. He built up the Richmond Design Group into Richmond International, with headquarters in Covent

Garden and a full order book covering projects all over Europe. Lush sold the company ten years ago, meaning to retire. But by now the doyen of his industry, he still found himself in demand as a consultant and eventually formed his own firm Robert Lush Associates.

Four years ago he also joined the board of the property company Kinfield, largely to advise it on hotel design and restoration of its city centre complexes in this country and on the Continent.

Lush's strengths included his love and knowledge of 18th and 19th-century buildings, his eye for detail and his mastery of technique. But he was also a practical businessman who never forgot that the hotels and other structures he restored belonged to the world of commerce and existed to make money.

He took great pride in those awards which he received over the years, including one from the City of Westminster for his work on the William Kent building at 44 Berkeley Square. He also derived great pleasure from the fine 18th-century mansion which he made his home, Woodperry House in Oxfordshire. He lavished great care and attention on both the house and on its gardens, which were to feature in the *Good Gardens Guide*.

He devoted much of his spare time to outside interests. He was on the board of both the Oxford Playhouse and the Musicians Benevolent Fund and was an active member of Buck's Club. He was chairman-elect of Buck's and had looked forward to assuming office in July.

He was once described as the quintessential Englishman - a modest, self-effacing clubman with a disarming sense of humour. His genial approach, however, masked strong views. He rarely contradicted his clients. Instead he would gently suggest certain refinements to their ideas until the astonished other party found himself agreeing to something completely different.

Although the marriage in 1967 to his barrister wife Jill was recently dissolved, they remained close friends. Robert Lush who suffered a stroke is survived by her and by their two sons.



Lush's interior for the Dorchester, Park Lane, London, after its reopening in 1990

MARIA REICHE

Maria Reiche, mathematician and archaeologist, died in Lima, Peru, on June 8 aged 95. She was born in Dresden on May 15, 1903.

AN enthusiast who publicised and preserved the prehistoric ground drawings of Nazca in southern Peru, Maria Reiche conducted nearly half a century of dogged research in the coastal desert of Peru. In the course of this she documented and protected the "pathways to the mountain gods" that the ancient inhabitants had created on the level plain of the Nazca pampa some 1,500 years ago. Now among the world's most noted, yet controversial, archaeological phenomena, the Nazca drawings were discovered only in 1926 and were not seriously studied until the 1940s, when Reiche began her work under the tutelage of the historian Ralph Kosok.

Visible in their totality only from the air, the great avenues, triangles, rectangles, and theriomorphs had been laid out by moving dark surface stones to one side, exposing the lighter ground beneath. They were first noted by the Peruvian archaeologist Mejia Xesspe and his Ameri-

can colleague Alfred L. Kroeber while working at the nearby site of Cantallo and although the drawings were a familiar sight to local travellers the first publication on them did not appear until 1939, when Xesspe presented a paper to the International Congress of Americanists in Lima on *Aqueducts and Ancient Roads*.

Kosok, attracted by this identification of the features and advancing the thesis that large-scale irrigation works betokened a complex and oppressive social system based on slavery, was drawn to Nazca in 1941 and shortly thereafter hired Reiche to continue the survey he had begun. She had emigrated to Peru nine years earlier as a governess, after reading magazines and geography at Hamburg and Dresden universities and working as a teacher until the political situation in Germany became unhappy for her. When tutoring in Lima failed, she supported herself by translating scientific papers and teaching languages and gymnastics at the University of San Marcos there, and this brought her into contact with Kosok and other Peruvian archaeologists.



On her first visit to the pampa in December 1941, she confirmed the apparent astronomical significance of several of the linear features, noting that the solstitial sun set along them. She was not allowed to work at Nazca until after the end of the war because of her German nationality, but from 1946 onwards she lived there almost permanently, at first in a hotel and later at the San Pablo ranch close to the desert figures. After a decade she moved back to Nazca town, where her evening lectures for tourists became an institution, as did she herself.

When Maria Reiche began her survey only the most striking geometric figures were visible from the air: the wind had created a new coat of

"desert varnish" over the light surface exposed by the ancients, and none of the animal or bird figures, with their narrow endless lines, could be seen, although the slight difference in elevation caused by the initial clearing could be detected at ground level. Reiche at first used a rake to refresh the lines, but finding that too crude switched to a broom, often returning to a figure over a period of weeks to view it in all lights and ensure that she was following the true outline.

Thus the great hummingbirds, monkeys, frigates birds, killer whales, spiders and other fauna of the Nazca pampa were again unveiled. The designs were so complex that Reiche often did not know what she was clearing until she had plotted her survey lines out on graph paper, and some were more than three hundred feet across. They were in turn dwarfed by the geometric figures, some of which stretched for miles across the plain towards the Andes, with their straight edges deviating by as little as four feet in a mile.

The Nazca municipal authorities helped her with the loan of the tallest ladder in town, belonging to the electric-

ity company and propped against the town ditch so that she could get a high-angle view of the designs, while the Peruvian air force gradually built up an archive of photographs taken during training missions.

In 1949 Reiche published *Mystery on the Desert* herself, attributing the drawings to astronomer-priests. She followed uncritically Ralph Kosok's interpretation that they functioned as part of a religious system based on an agricultural calendar and designed by the "chiefs" who had made them and who formed the mass of the Nazca population. Although she accumulated an impressive amount of new data over the decades, including some new evidence for the use of a unit of mensuration based on the human forearm, Reiche developed few ideas of her own about the reasons why the drawings were done. The questions raised by the Nazca drawings seem unending. Her great contribution was to ask them in the first place, and then to defend the fragile landscape of the pampa from the boom in tourism and research that ensued. Reiche was unmarried.

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MILESTONES



General Sani Abacha, Nigerian dictator, died on June 8 aged 54. He was born on September 20, 1943.

The promises of democratic reform given by Sani Abacha when he took power in Nigeria in a bloodless coup in November 1993 proved as worthless as those of his predecessors. As his regime's brutality caused international outrage in 1995 when it executed the environmentalist and playwright Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others on trumped up charges.

Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, former Vatican Secretary of State, died on June 8 aged 83. He was born on November 24, 1914. A consummate diplomat, Agostino Casaroli was naturally suited to his role as the Vatican's unofficial "foreign minister". In that capacity he was for almost thirty years a driving force behind its so-called *Opuspolitik*, the policy of establishing a *modus vivendi* with communism. In 1971 he became the first representative of the Holy See in 50 years to visit Moscow for talks with the Soviet Government. Of those who signed the Helsinki Accords in 1975, he was the only one still in office and present 15 years later at the Paris security summit that marked the end of the Cold War. In 1979 he also took over the administration of the Vatican City.

lsh made the *Daily Mail* the voice of Middle England and a staunch supporter of Margaret Thatcher. After rising through several papers, he became Editor of the *Mail* when it was relaunched as a tabloid in 1971, and reversed its long decline. He also turned round *The Mail on Sunday* after a feeble launch. One of the best paid of editors, English was independently wealthy, having built a stable of free-sheets and sold it to Rupert Murdoch. He was a demanding boss, but his belief in good honest journalism was reflected in his work for the Press Complaints Commission.

Sir David English, Editor of the *Daily Mail*, 1971-92, died on June 10 aged 67. He was born on May 26, 1931. A strong believer in family values and an editor of flair and conviction, David Eng-



Initially a journalist by trade, Hammond Innes wrote his first novel in 1937, and followed it with a thriller every couple of years. Several have been filmed. Dialogue and character were never his strong suit, but he meticulously researched the territory and background for his tales of endurance and survival against ferociously hostile nature, in the form of titanic seas, burning deserts and polar ice-floes, vertiginous mountains and towering forests. He was a very keen sailor and woodsman.

Hammond Innes, CBE, adventure story writer, died on June 10 aged 84. He was born on July 15, 1913.

North East. Her gritty, realistic tales topped not only the bestseller lists - with more than 100 million copies sold - but also the library lending lists for many years. She gave generously to charities, using her wealth to alleviate the sufferings of those afflicted as she had once been.

Catherine Cookson, DBE, popular novelist, died on June 11 aged 91. She was born on June 20, 1906.

Born illegitimate and into poverty, the girl who was to become Catherine Cookson dreamt of the respectability of marriage and "a nice home". She took elocution lessons, and in 1940 she married a teacher, Tom Cookson, but found she could not have children. She began her writing career in 1950, and went on to publish 70 novels, almost all set in her native



Obituary published on June 11.

Dull end to week

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of equity prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, Pubs & Rest, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ENGINEERING, VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER, and DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS. Each sector contains a list of companies with their respective prices and percentage changes.

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Advertisement for Telia, featuring the text 'tell me it's easy' and 'Call Telia and we'll tell you more about telecom solutions for business.' It includes the contact number 0800 652 5000 and the website http://www.telia.co.uk.

Large advertisement for 'Mark' featuring the text 'BA chair leads of hon for bus' and 'Thistle tipped as Stakis target'. It includes an image of a person and various headlines related to business and industry news.



GAMBLE 30 Casinos bank on break in run of bad luck

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

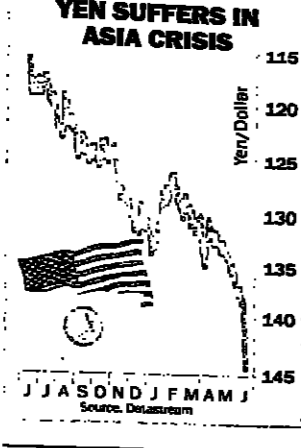
BUSINESS

WEEKEND MONEY
SECTION 2

SATURDAY JUNE 13 1998

Japan formally enters recession with currency at eight-year low

Markets slump as Asia crisis bites



BY JANET BUSH IN LONDON AND ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

WORLD stock markets crumpled yesterday as Japan formally sank into recession and the yen fell to an eight-year low, piling the agony on to the rest of Asia.

Wall Street extended the severe losses incurred on Thursday, dropping another 100 points by afternoon trading yesterday.

German shares fell nearly 3 per cent and, in London, the FTSE 100 index dropped to its lowest level for six weeks,

closing 82.7 points lower at 5,769.8.

The revelation of a dismal economic performance in Japan finally appears to have knocked some reality into stock markets on both sides of the Atlantic which have been buoyant despite the evident deepening of the Asian crisis in recent weeks.

Japan's economy contracted by 1.3 per cent in the first three months of the year after a fall of 0.4 per cent in the final quarter of last year. The first-quarter figure was far worse than the financial markets expected and brought home

the seriousness of the problems now faced by Japan and the whole of the Far East.

The Economic Planning Agency also reported that real gross domestic product in the 1997 tax year, which ended in March, fell by 0.7 per cent compared with the previous year. This is the first time the Japanese economy has contracted for 23 years and the size of the fall is the largest since the Government adopted its current statistical formula in 1955.

The swiftest response came in the currency markets where the yen slid to its lowest level

since late 1990 against the dollar — ending at ¥144.62. The Japanese currency has lost 5 per cent of its value in a week, threatening to trigger another round of competitive devaluations in the rest of South-East Asia and perhaps even in China.

The rot had already set in after a crucial Group of Seven meeting on Wednesday passed with no statement of support for the Japanese currency. Then came comments on Thursday by Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, that central bank currency intervention was a mere short-term

instrument and that yen weakness reflected economic conditions in Japan. This appeared to bury any hope that America and other industrialised countries would combine to put a floor under the yen and relieve the pressure on the rest of the region.

Kyutarō Hashimoto, Japan's Prime Minister, was clearly dismayed. He said that the exchange rate did not reflect the fundamental strength of Japan's economy and, in a remark that seemed ominous for the often strained trade relations between Japan and the US, gave warning that

the yen's weakness would boost America's trade deficit. Japan's troubles sent Asian markets into a tail-spin. The Korea Stock Exchange slumped by 8 per cent to its lowest level for 11 years. The central bank in Taiwan intervened in support of the Taiwan dollar in deliberately public operations in the currency markets. In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 stock index slumped below the 15,000 level for the first time since January but then recovered to end 8.29 points higher at 15,022.33, closing before the GDP figures were published.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

| | | |
|----------------|----------|-----------|
| FTSE 100 | 5769.8 | (-82.7) |
| Yield | 2.28% | |
| FTSE All share | 2761.31 | (-35.33) |
| Nikkei | 15022.33 | (+8.29) |
| New York | | |
| Dow Jones | 8731.06 | (-80.71)* |
| S&P Composite | 1085.67 | (-6.91)* |

US RATE

| | | |
|---------------|--------|---------|
| Federal Funds | 5.75% | (5.75) |
| Long Bond | 106.5% | (106.5) |
| Yield | 5.65% | (5.65) |

LONDON MONEY

| | | |
|-----------------|------|-------|
| 3-mth Interbank | 7.5% | (7.5) |
| Libor 6m | | |
| Libor 12m | | |
| Libor 18m | | |
| Libor 24m | | |
| Libor 36m | | |
| Libor 48m | | |
| Libor 60m | | |
| Libor 72m | | |
| Libor 84m | | |
| Libor 96m | | |
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| Libor 276m | | |
| Libor 288m | | |
| Libor 300m | | |
| Libor 312m | | |
| Libor 324m | | |
| Libor 336m | | |
| Libor 348m | | |
| Libor 360m | | |

STERLING

| | | |
|----------|---------|----------|
| New York | 1.6307* | (1.6300) |
| London | | |
| DM | 1.6317 | (1.6303) |
| DM | 2.9434 | (2.9412) |
| FF | 9.8701 | (9.8610) |
| SFR | 2.4402 | (2.4308) |
| Yen | 144.22* | (144.12) |
| £ Index | 104.9 | (104.5) |

US DOLLAR

| | | |
|---------|---------|----------|
| London | 1.5045* | (1.5030) |
| DM | 6.0550* | (6.0570) |
| FF | 1.4982* | (1.4982) |
| Yen | 144.22* | (144.12) |
| £ Index | 133.7 | (113.5) |

NORTH SEA OIL

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| Brent 15-day (Aug) | \$13.60 | (\$13.40) |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|

GOLD

| | | |
|--------------|----------|------------|
| London close | \$286.05 | (\$288.75) |
|--------------|----------|------------|

* denotes midday trading price

BA chairman leads list of honours for business

BY JON ASHWORTH

SIR COLIN MARSHALL, the chairman of British Airways and Sir Terence Burns, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, have been appointed Life Peers in the Queen's Birthday Honours. They lead the field in a wide-ranging list which spans every corner of finance and industry.

There are knighthoods for Malcolm Bates, chairman of Pearl Insurance and Premier Farnell; John Browne, group chief executive of BP; Patrick



Star status: Rachel Hunter and her husband the singer Rod Stewart are fans of Lamborghini, which is being sold for an undisclosed sum

Thistle tipped as Stakis target

BY DOMINIC WALSH

STAKIS, the hotel and casino group, is tipped to turn its attention to Thistle Hotels after the collapse yesterday of takeover talks with Vaux, owner of the Swallow Hotels chain.

Shares in Vaux shed 40p to 310.5p after it announced that discussions with the unnamed predator, which made an unsolicited approach last week, had ended. It said: "These discussions... have not resulted in an offer and have now been terminated by Vaux."

Industry sources believe that attempts by financial advisers from the two sides to reach agreement had collapsed over price. One source said that Stakis was willing to pay around 360p, whereas Vaux, supported by bullish comments from some analysts, had wanted at least 400p. Vaux was advised by Noble Grossart, while Stakis used Schroders.

Observers believe that Stakis may now launch a bid for Thistle, which announced on Tuesday that it had received several approaches. A bid is likely to be launched with its US partner, Strategic Hotel Capital Incorporated.

VW to expand car collection with Lamborghini purchase

Lamborghini's main shareholder is "Tommy" Suharto, youngest son of Suharto, the former Indonesian president who holds 60 per cent. The other 40 per cent is held by Mycom of Malaysia, which

NOT content with merely owning Rolls-Royce and Bentley, Volkswagen is to add to its collection of prestige car marques by buying Lamborghini and negotiating to purchase Bugatti (Adam Jones writes)

Audi, the VW subsidiary, said yesterday that it has signed a letter of intent to take over Lamborghini, but refused to disclose the price it is eventually likely to pay.

has property, stockbroking and financial services interests. Negotiations should be completed within two weeks, an Audi spokesman said. Another motor industry source said yesterday that VW

heyday in the 1920s and 1930s and a new model could have an 18-cylinder engine.

VW has not yet completed the purchase of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars but it is thought unlikely that it could be derailed. It is understood that VW has approached Rolls-Royce plc about using the Rolls name on cars, either through a one-off payment or a sum dependent on the number of sales.

Soap giants battle over 'string vest' washing bag

BY ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

A LEGAL battle has broken out between the soap powder giants Procter & Gamble — makers of Ariel — and the Persil group Lever Brothers over the ownership of the right to use a bag made out of string-vest type material.

P&G, based in the US, is seeking an injunction to stop Lever Brothers using the washing bag. The P&G legal action asks the court to restrain [Lever Brothers]... from infringing European Patent (UK) No. 0 343 069 or procuring or authorising and assisting others to do so.

The bag is central to the latest marketing push by Persil. Lever's flagship washing powder brand, Persil has just launched a new way of using the washing powder using soap in tablet form.

The tablet should be inserted into the controversial bag which is then put into the washing machine. Lever reckons the system will find popularity because the tablet is a ready-measured amount, and will reduce consumer concerns about wastage.

It is understood that Procter & Gamble is working on a similar project for its Ariel brand with soap powder discs. The new Persil product, and the new bag delivery system, is being promoted by Lever Brothers using what some have called ground-breaking television adverts that use avant garde filming and screen direction techniques.

A spokesman for P&G declined to comment. Unilever, the quoted Lever Brothers parent, said: "We are in talks with Procter & Gamble over this and are hoping to find resolution."

The tussle over control of the mesh bag is reminiscent of the wrangle in the 1994 over Lever Brothers's Persil Power. The product was undermined when P&G alleged it led to the disintegration of material.

B&W chief gets £2m of options

JOHN BURKE, chief executive of Bristol & West, has been granted share options worth about £2 million after the building society's takeover by Bank of Ireland (Richard Miles writes).

The Irish bank's annual report reveals that Mr Burke was awarded 150,000 share options at a price of 1r906p on his appointment as a director to the main board.

Since then, the bank's stock has risen beyond 1r£15, before shedding some of its gains in the past four weeks. Based on yesterday's closing price of 1r£13.38, Mr Burke is already sitting on a paper profit of 1r£647,850.

News of his share options is sure to anger many B&W savers and borrowers who complained their windfalls were too low as a result of the management's decision to sell the society for £600 million.

A WEEK IN THE CITY

Mick Jagger took the stage with Gordon Brown this week as the City bade farewell to some vintage names. The London Stock Exchange set about selling the benefits of share ownership — inviting the inevitable — while that curious business involving Anglia Television returned to haunt that master of fiction, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare.

Word that the Rolling Stones were cancelling four UK tour dates over a threatened £12 million tax bill was greeted with predictable jeers. Jagger and his cohort, Keith Richards, are angry about retrospective legislation which hits those working abroad. Tax experts say

they have a point. Everyone from expatriate nurses to charity workers face paying tax on what would have been tax-free earnings.

Having alienated Britain's rockers, Gordon Brown followed through with one of the most remarkable Damascene conversions ever seen in British politics. After years lambasting Tory privatisations, the Government unveiled a surprise batch of state sell-offs. A majority stake in Britain's air traffic control system is to be sold, the Royal Mint and the Toie will be further privatised, and some motorway service stations will be offered up to private companies. The measures are expected to raise £12 billion to finance investment in health, education and transport.

Fleet Street paid tribute to Sir David English, the Daily Mail pioneer, who died after suffering a stroke. He was 67. Sir Bernard Ashley quit the board of Laura Ashley after 45 years to concentrate on other interests. Rana Talwar, a former Citibank executive, was named chief executive-elect of Standard Chartered — the first Indian national to head a FTSE 100 constituent.

The Stock Exchange launched a £1 million campaign aimed at encouraging wider share ownership, just in time for London's second-largest fall of the year. Renewed fragility in Asia left the FTSE 100 index sharply lower on Thursday and yesterday. Wall Street was also badly hit. Gloom over Japan's economic prospects pushed the yen to an eight-year low, and sent fresh tremors through the region.

Thistle Hotels, the UK's second-biggest hotelier, said it had received a number of takeover approaches, raising the prospect of a £2 billion bid battle. Canadian Pacific Hotels, Canada's biggest hotel company, said it was buying Princess Hotels from Lorch for £330 million.

Elsewhere, bid talks between Vaux and an unnamed suitor which could have led to a £500 million takeover were called off.

Running for Mayor of London brought some teething questions for Lord

Archer, who was challenged over those unfortunate 1994 Anglia Television share deals. Brook Saib, a Kurdish associate, made a profit of about £80,000 on Anglia shares — supposedly after Lord Archer was tipped off about an imminent takeover bid. His wife, Mary, was a non-executive director of Anglia at the time.

Lord Archer says he was given some general advice about buying into smaller television companies — his first public pronouncement on the subject.

The Department of Trade and Industry investigated, but decided to take no further action.

JON ASHWORTH

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Agent calls on names to stop underwriting

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE demise of the Lloyd's of London name came a step closer yesterday, when Robert Hiscox, the members' agent, called on its names to cease underwriting for 1999.

The firm, which manages about £240 million in capacity for more than 270 names, has concluded that individual underwriting at Lloyd's — whether as an unlimited liability name or through a Scottish Limited Partnership — is no longer in names' best interests. In a letter to names, it gives warning of the risk of "substantial loss" under the present system, saying the market faces an "uncertain peril" from claims associated with the millennium bug.

The move hammers yet another nail in the coffin of traditional underwriting at

Lloyd's. Individual names in the market have fallen from 34,000 a decade ago to fewer than 7,000. Corporate capital now speaks for 60 per cent of Lloyd's £10.2 billion capacity. There are 435 corporate vehicles, compared with 6,825 individual names.

Robert Hiscox, chairman of Roberts & Hiscox, said: "Personally, I do not want to underwrite with unlimited liability in 1999, and must advise names for whom I act accordingly. Market conditions are very tough and the expenses for individual names are an added handicap."

Mr Hiscox added: "To be a shareholder with limited liability, to have the ability to sell at any time and to have lower expenses, is an overwhelmingly attractive alternative.

Lloyd's needs to be wholly corporate to compete in today's competitive environment."

Lloyd's has been accused of using "black propaganda" to drive out names in favour of corporate capital. The Association of Lloyd's Members (ALM) recently launched an outspoken attack on Ron Sandler, the Lloyd's chief executive, for favouring permanent capital over transient private money. Mr Sandler has questioned the value of the annual venture — the mechanism that allows names to shift between insurance syndicates each year.

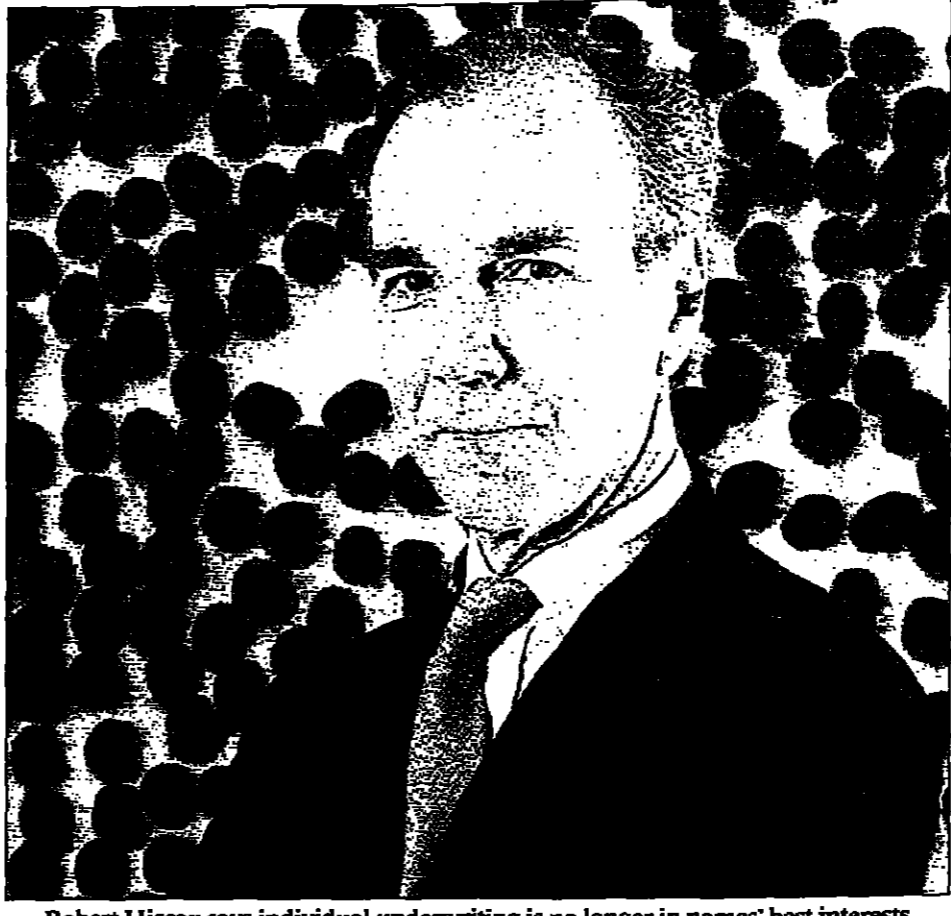
Sir David Rowland, the former chairman of Lloyd's, is among names to switch to underwriting on a limited liability basis.

Roberts & Hiscox says cur-

rent tough trading conditions heighten the risk of losses for individual names in the 1999 year of account. The year 2000 crisis remains an unknown threat. Costs associated with individual underwriting and the annual venture — about 5 per cent higher than in the case of corporate capital — are said to be damaging returns to names. The firm hopes its members will reinvest in a new vehicle which will invest exclusively in insurance businesses, at Lloyd's and in the wider insurance market.

Insurers have been unable to quantify the value of potential claims arising from computer failures linked to the millennium bug.

Lloyd's holds its annual meeting in London.



Robert Hiscox says individual underwriting is no longer in names' best interests

LME fines Dutch firm £200,000

A Netherlands-based metals warehouse has been fined £200,000 by the London Metal Exchange (LME) for making two shipments of tin which did not comply with LME rules. The fine is one of the steepest to be meted out by the LME.

It took disciplinary action in March against Albatros, registered in Rotterdam, for putting on LME warrant two shipments of tin which did not comply with the LME special contract rules for tin. Albatros appealed.

Now, the LME appeal committee has issued a fine of £200,000 and ordered Albatros to pay LME investigation costs of £1,650. Albatros has three months in which to commission an independent audit of its management and control systems and processes. This it must pay for itself.

Crown fall

Crown Leisure, manufacturer of amusement machines, saw pre-tax profits fall from £552,000 to £261,000 in the half year to March 31. Part of the reason was the £291,000 cost of investing in Inter Lotto, a network of online lottery machines. Sales were £18.9 million (£15.2 million). The dividend was held at 0.75p out of earnings of 1.19p (1.87p).

Haemocell loss

Haemocell, the blood transfusion equipment maker, is to buy Surgical Innovations, which makes equipment for keyhole surgery, for £3.6 million. Haemocell reported a loss of £1.1 million (£1.2 million loss) in the 16 months to December. Losses per share were 1.3p against 4.5p.

IMI expands

IMI, the engineering group, yesterday acquired KIP for \$30 million (£18 million). KIP, based in Connecticut, manufactures solenoid valves that will become part of IMI's fluid power valve operations.

Matbro's staff knew about cash problem

BY ADAM JONES

POWERSCREEN admitted yesterday that managers were aware of problems at its Matbro arm months before the Northern Irish engineer raised £18 million in a share issue that proved disastrous for investors.

Powerscreen issued three million shares in late December but said on January 27 financial irregularities at Matbro would force it into loss. The shares halved in value.

Powerscreen said that the long-delayed investigation by KPMG, its auditor, "concludes that certain members of Matbro's management were aware of the emergence of problems from summer 1997 and that certain of the company's [Powerscreen's] former executive directors became aware of problems in the final months of 1997."

Matbro had, among other

things, inflated sales figures by recording IOU's as normal payments. There is a Serious Fraud Office inquiry. John Craig, the chairman, said: "It was an early deception that proved disastrous for investors."

Shay McKeown, the former Powerscreen chief executive, and Barry Cosgrove, his finance director, left the board in March.

The report said there had been an "accounting breakdown" at Matbro and inadequate financial supervision at a group level. This is also a major embarrassment for KPMG in its role as auditor, because it shows Powerscreen's profits for the year to March 31, 1997, were overstated by £9 million.

Their investigation is now being reviewed by Ernst & Young, the accountant, and Herbert Smith, the law firm.

Tussauds buys Thorpe Park in £15m deal

BY RICHARD MILES

THORPE PARK, the Surrey theme park visited by one million fun-seekers each year, is being sold to the Tussauds Group, owner of the two biggest rival attractions.

Tussauds, the leisure arm of Pearson, is believed to have offered between £15 million and £20 million to RMC, the building materials company that owns Thorpe Park.

If the sale goes ahead, Tussauds will control the three largest theme parks in the UK. Alton Towers is the biggest, attracting 2.7 million visitors each year, while Chessington World of Adventures pulls in 1.75 million visitors.

The company also owns Madame Tussauds, London's most popular attraction, and the London Planetarium. It also owns 40 per cent of Port Aventura, a Spanish theme park visited by more than

three million people each year.

Michael Jolly, chairman and chief executive of the Tussauds Group, said the deal was a great opportunity to develop its visitor attractions business. "We plan substantial new investment to make the park even more attractive to visitors," he said.

RMC said that the disposal of Thorpe Park was "opportunistic", describing the attraction as a niche business. The company said it wanted to concentrate on its core building and materials business.

The deal, which requires regulatory approval, will rekindle speculation about Pearson's long-term plans for its leisure arm. Some market watchers believe Pearson may be beefing up Tussauds for an eventual sale or flotation.

Commentary, page 29.

Regulators split over WorldCom MCI deal

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

EUROPEAN and American regulators are split over what disposals to demand from WorldCom and MCI to approve their \$40 billion (£24 billion) telecoms merger.

The regulators had so far worked in concert and said they would make a joint decision on the deal. But Karel Van Miert, the EU Competition Commissioner, is now at odds with the Justice Department in Washington over what Internet businesses the new long-distance supercarrier should sell.

Mr Van Miert's demands are more extensive than anything suggested by Joel Klein, the US trustbuster. Mr Klein is engaged in separate negotiations with MCI after a public clash between Mr Van Miert and Bernie Ebbers, the chief executive of WorldCom.

The commissioner told WorldCom to sell UUNet, the unit that owns the fibre optic cables carrying electronic traffic across the Atlantic, but Mr Ebbers refused.

Mr Klein is asking for the sale of MCI's remaining Internet business after a first tranche was sold to Cable & Wireless. C&W has filed a lawsuit against MCI, demanding a right of first refusal on the rest of its Internet business.



On top of the world: Bob Nellist, Systems International's new chairman, with Nick Reid, chief executive

THE two founders of an IT firm set up in London with a £10,000 loan are to gain more than £16 million after Omnimedia, a shell company, announced a surprise reverse takeover (Matthew Barbour writes).

Omnimedia, the AIM-listed multimedia publisher which has a market value of £1.1 million, is buying Sales Engineering & Computer Consultants (SEC) for £17 million.

The move secures a stock market listing for SEC, which will be enlarged and renamed Systems International Group.

Nick Reid, 35, who founded SEC with his father in 1987,

SEC to list after reverse takeover

will own 58.2 per cent of the share capital once the deal has been completed.

Bernard, his father, will raise an estimated £5 million, selling his holding in the newly listed group through a vendor placing.

Up to 70 SEC employees are also set to gain from the move, each receiving 1,666 shares worth about £1,000.

Several executives, including John Hall, the managing director, and Jason Todd, the general manager, will be given options worth more than £300,000 each.

Nick Reid, who will be appointed chief executive, has recruited Bob Nellist, the chairman of HIT Entertainment, as chairman.

SEC also announced its

results for the year to December 31, with pre-tax profits climbing to £1.4 million from £647,000.

Turnover also rose from £4.8 million last time to £9.3 million.

SEC's software allows business computers to access databases around the world. Mr Reid plans to expand in Europe, including opening an office in Switzerland to service one of its biggest customers, Ciba, the speciality chemicals business.

Other companies on SEC's client base include Shell International and Smithkline Beecham.

New Look placement sends Singh into UK's richest 100

BY FRASER NELSON

TOM SINGH claimed his place among the 100 richest men in Britain yesterday after a successful share placing of New Look, the women's fashion chain, lifted his fortune to £280 million.

New Look yesterday passed the final hurdle of seeking a stock market flotation and will join the market with a price tag of £330 million — the mid-range of City expectations.

Mr Singh has already raised £170 million after selling a large stake in his

company to venture capitalists after his first flotation attempt failed four years ago.

He retains a 34 per cent stake in the company worth £110 million, making him the 77th richest man in Britain. He previously ranked 134th, on a par with David Bowie and Michael Hesseitine.

The company itself has raised £84 million, which it will spend on opening hundreds more shops throughout Britain. Its current network stretches from Aberdeen to Düsseldorf.

Mr Singh started the company in 1969, but has now taken a back seat to appease City nerves that he had too firm a grip on the company.

Mohamed Al Fayed is the wealthiest figure in British retailing, with an estimated fortune of £1.2 billion. The flotation has made Mr Singh wealthier than Sir Graham Kirkham, chairman of DFS, and Tom Hunter, head of Sports Division.

TOURIST RATES

| | Bank Buy | Bank Sell |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|
| Australia \$ | 2.84 | 2.88 |
| Austria Sch | 21.70 | 20.04 |
| Belgium Fr | 63.96 | 68.90 |
| Canada \$ | 2.25 | 2.28 |
| Cyprus Cyp£ | 0.907 | 0.885 |
| Denmark Kr | 11.80 | 10.91 |
| Finland Mk | 8.40 | 8.74 |
| France Fr | 10.33 | 8.55 |
| Germany DM | 3.11 | 2.86 |
| Greece Dr | 526 | 487 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 13.47 | 12.27 |
| Iceland Fl | 122 | 109 |
| Ireland P | 1.22 | 1.13 |
| Italy Lit | 6.30 | 5.74 |
| Japan Yen | 3074 | 2837 |
| Malta | 249.27 | 221.74 |
| Media | 0.677 | 0.618 |
| Netherlands Gld | 3.507 | 3.212 |
| New Zealand \$ | 2.38 | 2.12 |
| Norway Kr | 13.06 | 12.12 |
| Portugal Esc | 113.81 | 291.78 |
| S Africa R | 9.28 | 8.22 |
| Spain Ptas | 260.98 | 242.20 |
| Sweden Kr | 13.85 | 12.75 |
| Switzerland Fr | 2.58 | 2.37 |
| Turkey Lira | 43141 | 411483 |
| USA \$ | 1.78 | 1.95 |

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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LCI say duty is for divi

NATIONWIDE... new building... day pledged... increase its... the best... names Carol... However... and Le... rates to 7... response to... asking 57... of £50,000... Brian Dav... has not in... page rates since...

Nationwide p to keep rates

NATIONWIDE... new building... day pledged... increase its... the best... names Carol... However... and Le... rates to 7... response to... asking 57... of £50,000... Brian Dav... has not in... page rates since...

THE SUNDAY TIMES

While the 190 partners of Goldman Sachs were this weekend trying to decide whether to go public, confused journalists were racing round the New York countryside trying to find their secret meeting-place...

Business. The Sunday Times tomorrow

Weekend Over two hun call us on 03 weekend acti

As June dishes up more cold winds and rain storms, a nasty chill is hitting the high street. The fashion pages continue to feature busy frocks and strappy sandals but, in the real world, that is not what people buy when gales are blowing and open-toed shoes equate to wet feet. The true fashion victims are the stores stocked full of summer clothes and now with no hope of selling them at full margins.

Retailers invariably blame the weather for their ills. Generally it is more of an excuse than an explanation for poor trading over a whole season. But this spring and summer has caused genuine difficulty for those trying to sell clothes. That June has produced two weeks of miserable weather has made the situation almost irretrievable for many fashion stores. They are now being panicked into starting what used to be known as the July Sales a couple of weeks early, in order to try to entice a few bargain hunters into helping them clear stock. But that means margins must be slashed.

The latest figures from the John Lewis Partnership, covering the first week of June, showed sales of women's shoes were down more than 8 per cent on the same week a year ago. Fashions — and JLP cannot be accused of being too riskily avant garde in this direction — were down 7.7 per cent. The more fashion-led businesses are feel-

ing the same effects, but more so. House of Fraser, Storehouse, Next and Marks & Spencer are said to be suffering. Shoppers will soon be able to judge the scale of their agonies by the amount of stock which bears "reduced" labels and the scale of the cuts. A prime season for bargain-hunters seems assured, particularly if they have need of limsy dresses and high-heeled mules.

The slashed prices will also translate on to the stock market as the trading picture becomes clearer. John Lewis is unique in subjecting its figures to weekly scrutiny but it does so from the luxury of being unquoted. It is understandable that the public companies from the high street are more guarded in letting out their sales figures and risking the sort of shock reaction that would greet sales falls of up to 20 per cent now said to be registering at some high street names.

There are some more swiftly moving companies which are managing to sell their wares. After one poor season, Oasis has clambered back to buck the trend. Arcadia is also said to be continuing to trade better than the average, with the continuing improvement in its menswear

Wet look back in for summer



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

helping to lift the total. But generally the stores are miserable. Their poor sales are coinciding with a period of near-record rents in shopping centres and on high streets, a combined double blow to the bottom line.

This is a gloomy background against which to try to launch a new fashion retailer on to the stock market. New Look's stock market debut could be marred by the grim news to come from its rivals.

Kitemark may get blown away

If the British Standards Institute is seriously considering awarding its Kitemark to some savings products, it could be heading into very dangerous territory. The idea is not original. It was the Treasury that first announced that it intended to CATmark some of the new Individual Savings Ac-

count (Isa) products. This particular feline accreditation was to be awarded for meeting certain standards on cost, accessibility and terms. Even the Treasury could see that there was no possibility for judging products on performance.

But the Kitemark is widely seen as a guarantee that a product will do what it is supposed to do. If it is an electric kettle, it will boil water without electrocuting the hand that holds it. Savings products are clearly intended to generate good returns for investors but all too often they can fall to do so. The Kitemark could find its reputation being rapidly devalued if it was to be found attached to a fund which had gone down rather than up. Savings plans may be intended to be long term, and over the long term the index-linked funds which are to be the core of Isas have produced a decent return for investors. But not everyone will be able to wait

for the right moment to realise their gains.

The application of official seals of approval, whether CATmarks or Kitemarks, risks giving investors the wrong message. Markets do fluctuate more than the performance of carefully tested electrical products should. The current tremors in our own stock market and that of the US provide ample evidence of that. At long last the potential implications of the Asian crisis appear to be dawdling on investors. With the yen in free-fall and the Hong Kong dollar set to be unpegged from the US currency there is worse to come.

Even the best-managed savings plans will not be immune from the fallout from the turmoil in Asia. Is it wise, therefore, for the Government or the British Standards Institute to imply that there is a ring of safety around a particular fund?

Better, by far, to educate the public into understanding the need to be cautious and careful

investors. The concept of *cautem pto* should not be forgotten in this latest move to encourage people to save. Otherwise we risk heading towards a replay of the fiasco over personal pensions, with vast numbers of people claiming that they had been conned into buying something they did not want with false promises of riches to come.

Yet another string to Sir Colin's bow

Having accumulated innumerable company directorships, not to mention the CBI presidency, Sir Colin Marshall now adds the ultimate trophy to his collection — and it is no bad thing. The former cadet purser and car rental executive has finally caught up with doughty Thatcherite Lord King of Warminster, with whom he comprised such a powerful double act at British Airways during the eighties. Sir Colin can ill-afford to neglect his duties as BA chairman — a point we have noted in this column before — but he rightly deserves recognition for a career marked by unstinting hard work. And he even wears red ties. No gong for

Eddie George, who, like Richard Branson, is forever dancing on the fringes of the honours, but a fitting tribute to Sir Terence Burns, who bows out from the Treasury later this month. Recruited to the Treasury by Baroness Thatcher in 1980, he has brought a refreshingly down-to-earth style to Parliament Street, even if not everyone found themselves in agreement with his sometimes extreme monetarist line. But could there be a more devoted fan of Queens Park Rangers?

Still only 54, Sir Terence has ample time in which to plot his next career move, including a rumoured return to academia. Whatever one makes of his rumoured falling-out with Gordon Brown, the Treasury's most senior civil servant goes on his way with a fitting accolade. The Treasury will be the quieter for his passing.

A serious player?

THORPE PARK is the theme park which comes with the royal seal of approval, it being where Diana, Princess of Wales, liked to take her boys for a jaunt on the log flume. If Pearson really wants to endear itself to the analysts, it will now organise a jaunt to its latest acquisition and let the teenage scribblers have fun while learning about chief executive Marjorie Scardino's intentions to be a serious player in the world of entertainment.

LCI says gaming duty is to blame for dividend cut

By DOMINIC WALSH

LONDON Clubs International, the troubled casino operator, has cut its dividend by 16 per cent and reduced its asset value by about 10 per cent as a direct result of the recent rise in gaming duty.

Reporting a decline in pre-tax profits from £32.2 million to £27.1 million in the year to March 29, the group unveiled a final dividend of 4.3p, making a total for the year of 6.925p — down from 8.25p a year ago. Earnings per share dropped to 13.6p (16.0p).

Alan Goodenough, chief executive, said: "We would not have cut the dividend if it was simply a case of a slight trading downturn. It was partly that, but it was really the duty situation." The changes, announced by the Chancellor in the Budget, are expected to wipe about £12 million from its annual profits.

Mr Goodenough also blamed the duty changes for the £16 million writedown in the value of the group's property assets. "The earnings and the cashflow of the business have been impacted and that affects the carrying values."

The shares, already depressed by the award on Thursday of a new casino licence to Aidan Barclay, own-

er of the Ritz Hotel Casino, hit a new low of 164½p yesterday, a drop of almost 7 per cent, compared with more than 400p this time last year.

The group attributed much of the drop in profits to a lower contribution from its top-end London casinos, such as the Rendezvous and Les Ambassadeurs. Although rival operators have flagged up a drop-off in high-roller Asian punters, London Clubs said it was too early to assess the impact of the Asian economic crisis and business from high-rollers remained "reasonable". Mr Goodenough said the figures had suffered in comparison



Goodenough: overseas plan

with the previous "exceptional" year, while the Rendezvous and Ritz Club had seen an inevitable drop-off ahead of moves to new premises. "Since we moved the Rendezvous it has increased its business by 40 per cent in a flat London market, that suggests we're taking market share," he said.

Its casino in Cannes, which was sold yesterday for £800,000 to the owner of the nearby Carlton Casino, has also been a problem. The seasonality of the resort and long-running problems with French unions have meant LCI has always struggled to make money from the casino.

Despite the disposal, Mr Goodenough said that the group continued to press ahead with its international expansion. During the year it announced projects in Las Vegas and Johannesburg and is waiting to hear the result of tenders for licences in Durban and Cape Town. It is also investigating opportunities in Spain, Cyprus, Greece, Belgium, the Bahamas and South America.

Mr Goodenough said its casinos in Egypt and Lebanon had both traded strongly.

Bad luck, page 30
Gambling fever, pages 62-63



Seeing double: Antony Little, design director, and Sir Peter Osborne, chairman, of Osborne & Little, saw their total dividend leap to 43p (20p) for the year to March 31 after a special 20p payout. Pre-tax profits were up 9 per cent at £5.3 million and earnings rose to 53.5p (48.7p)

US regulators refuse approval for Dermagraft

By PAUL DURMAN

SMITH & NEPHEW, the healthcare company, has suffered another setback with its innovative artificial skin product after US regulators refused to approve it without further clinical data.

The company had hoped to launch Dermagraft in the US this year but it could take two years to complete the additional trials demanded by the Food and Drug Administration.

Chris O'Donnell, Smith & Nephew's chief executive, said: "It's extremely annoying and upsetting to get to this point and then for this to happen."

In January, an advisory panel recommended that the FDA should grant a conditional marketing approval to Dermagraft, which is seen as important for Smith & Nephew's future growth prospects.

The first problem arose in March when the FDA found fault with the Californian

manufacturing facilities of Advanced Tissue Sciences, Smith & Nephew's joint venture partner. Mr O'Donnell is said to have been "incandescent" at this discovery.

Yesterday he said the manufacturing problems had been "broadly resolved" and had not been the reason for the FDA's decision to seek further data.

Mr O'Donnell said the US delay would produce a small adverse effect on Smith & Nephew's results this year and next. He said the manufacturing problems had also caused some "very minor" problems with sales in Canada.

Dermagraft, grown from cells taken from circumcised babies' foreskins, is already available in the UK and is said to be receiving an enthusiastic response.

Shares in Smith & Nephew fell 5p to 168p.

Tempus, page 31

Nationwide pledges to keep rates on hold

NATIONWIDE, the UK's biggest building society, yesterday pledged that it would not increase its interest rates before the beginning of August (writes Caroline Merrall).

However, C&G and Alliance & Leicester lifted mortgage rates to 8.95 per cent in response to the base rate rise, adding £7 a month to the cost of a £50,000 loan.

Brian Davis, Nationwide's chief executive, said: "Nationwide has not increased mortgage rates since September

1997, so we are providing our borrowers not only with better rates, but also practically a full year of rate stability."

Despite yesterday's moves housebuyers remain confident about the housing market, according to a joint survey from Halifax and the House Builders Federation.

The survey found that 57 per cent of people looking to move home in the next 12 months expect house prices to rise slightly, with only 2 per cent expecting a slight fall.

GUS ends Argos Dutch venture

By FRASER NELSON

LORD WOLFSON of Sunningdale, the chairman of GUS, is to end Argos's ambitions of becoming a multinational brand by closing down the five Netherlands stores it opened in February.

In the first decisive change to Argos after winning the £1.9 billion hostile takeover bid six weeks ago, GUS will gradually wind down the Dutch stores at a loss of up to 150 jobs.

Although GUS will keep Argos's seven Irish stores, all

further expansion plans will be shelved.

Instead, GUS will try to grow Argos profits by launching mail order catalogues in the UK, using its own courier network.

Graham Frost, who has succeeded Stuart Rose as chief executive of Argos, said the Dutch consumer was demanding very different products to those which the company sold through its UK stores.

This, he said, made the

Netherlands stores much more expensive to operate — and meant they would not break into the black for "several years."

He said that business had been strong for the first couple of weeks, but soon slowed after the stores' novelty value had decreased.

"We could keep putting a lot of money into Holland — and hope that it will go into profit in several years' time," he said.

"Or, we could use the money

we would have been losing to develop the UK Argos."

The Irish stores sell much the same produce as Argos in the UK, he said, making them far cheaper to run.

Dutch consumers demanded different goods which needed to be procured by highly-paid supply teams.

When sales figures from the Netherlands stores were more encouraging, Stuart Rose had used them as an example of how Argos could survive as an independent company.

SHARES in Car Group, the UK's biggest used-car retailer, dived 45 per cent from 191½p to 106p after it said that profits for the year to August 31 will be significantly below expectations.

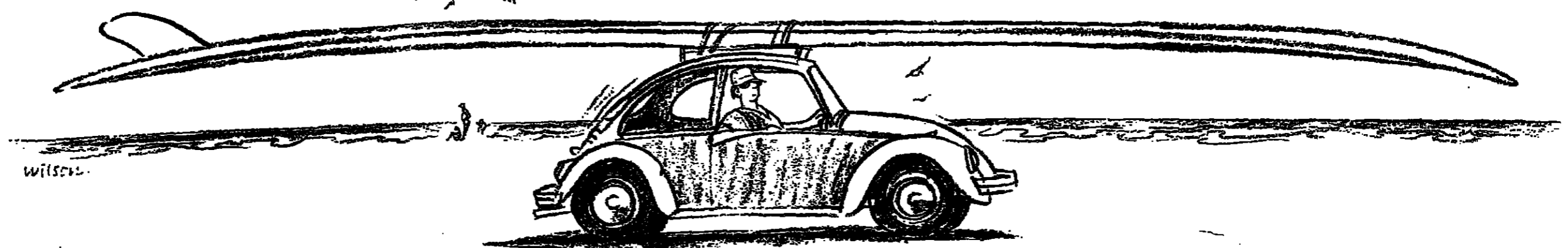
The group, which last month launched a new Manchester site, blamed challenging trading conditions along with marketing investments, national brand initiatives and site openings. Recent price movements in the used-car market and their impact on margins, stock values and average selling prices were also blamed for the disappointing figures.

The board said the extent of the shortfall depends on trading conditions for the rest of the financial year, and in particular the important

months of July and August. However, Richard Farr, chairman, said that because of the success of recent site launches, the group is to bring forward to September the opening of its new Nottingham outlet, 12 months earlier than planned.

He added that this will enable the group to focus on the northern and Midlands areas of its retail brand. In February, at the time of its interim results, Car Group said demand for used cars had been tighter than previous years, however it was the continued downturn in sales during May which prompted yesterday's announcement.

"We are assuming a recessionary environment next year," he said. "Whichever way things pan out, we will be prepared."



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STOCK MARKET



Merger rumours prove a pick-me-up for SB

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM was one of the best performers among the top 100 companies with the price adding 19p to 737p as 18.19 million shares changed hands.



SB denied that Jan Leschly would bow to pressure to resign

This latest burst of speculative buying has been fuelled by revived claims this week that merger talks with big rival Glaxo Wellcome, 2p firmer at £17.42, are back on again.

Merger talks back in February with Glaxo Wellcome broke down after a clash of personalities between Jan Leschly, chief executive of SB, and his opposite number, Sir Richard Sykes, at Glaxo Wellcome.

Among insurers Royal & Sun Alliance fell 20p to 630p, CGU 24p to £11.22, and Guardian Royal Exchange 14p to 360p.

hotel chain did not disclose the identity of the other party which may have been prepared to offer up to £500 million.

Druid Group, the computer applications specialist, came in for profit-taking after Thursday's gains with the price sliding 12 1/2p to £11.20.

Goldshield Group also made its debut yesterday after a placing of shares by Panmure Gordon, the broker, at 180p.

Some positive news at long last for Powerscreen International with the price adding 30p to 100 1/2p as the heavy engineer reported that trading in the first two months of the year was on target.

Capital Radio rose 5p to 670p despite two institutions selling a 10 per cent stake.

Early attempts at a rally on the back of a steadier performance overnight on Asian markets quickly ran out of steam.

Smith & Nephew dropped 5p to 168p with the US Food and Drug Administration insisting that further tests needed to be carried out on Dermagraft, its treatment for foot ulcers.

Bid hopes at Cliveden, the luxury hotel group, appeared to fade last night after rumours that the original unnamed suitor had failed to come up with a high enough offer.

Group which runs the Chicago Rock Café chain has come up from a low of 503p this year.

Confirmation that not everything is going according to plan left AIM-listed IES Group 20p down at 48 1/2p.

The FTSE 250 index finished 55.8 down at 5,861.2 with total turnover yesterday stretching to 830 million shares.

Capital Radio rose 5p to 670p despite two institutions selling a 10 per cent stake. A total of 7.56 million shares belonging to Riod Investments (9 per cent) and Caledonia Investments (1 per cent) were sold at 60p after a book building operation by Cazenove, the broker. A total of 8.04 million shares were traded.

Shares advanced lower in late morning trade with declining issues leading advancing ones by more than two to one. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 80.71 points at 8,731.06.

Having been 48 points higher at one stage, the FTSE 100 index managed to reduce a 102-point deficit to finish 82.7 lower at 5,769.8.

Early attempts at a rally on the back of a steadier performance overnight on Asian markets quickly ran out of steam.

Shares advanced lower in late morning trade with declining issues leading advancing ones by more than two to one.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Table listing stock movements for various companies like Security & Gen Medical, Hotels, etc.

COMMODITIES

Table listing commodity prices for LIFFE, ICIS-LOR, GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES, etc.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table listing financial futures for Long Gil, German Govt Bond, etc.

LIFFE OPTIONS

Table listing LIFFE options for various stocks like BHP, BP, etc.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table listing metal exchange prices for various metals like Gold, Silver, etc.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table listing money rates for various banks and currencies.

MAJOR INDICES

Table listing major stock indices like New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong, etc.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues for BTR Red P/B, Capital One, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues for Hryd Oil, Old Eng P/B, etc.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table listing major changes for RISES, FALLS, etc.

TEMPUS

Itchy rash of problems

SMITH & NEPHEW has survived five years of flat earnings with a reputation for being a well-managed company but one that offers investors little excitement outside of occasional takeover speculation.

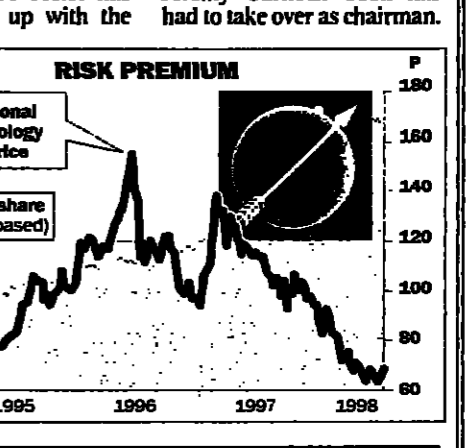
small joint venture partner whose manufacturing plant failed to meet the FDA's standards for good manufacturing practice - a fairly basic hurdle.

This year's setbacks with Dermagraft are particularly depressing because they point to the limitations of Smith & Nephew's experience of dealing with the all-powerful Food & Drug Administration.

Although the City's disillusionment with Dermagraft and Smith & Nephew set in long ago, the 5p fall in the shares to 168p yesterday looks too modest. Sell.

BIL/IBT

THE proposal to combine Biotechnology Investments Limited and International Biotechnology Trust - the two funds managed or advised by the Rothschild Bio-science Unit (RBU) - seems a limited technical response to a fundamental problem.



New Look

INVESTORS can be forgiven for feeling a touch nervous about New Look. It is only four years since it pulled its flotation plans partly because of fears about management control resting with the founder - yet Tom Singh is coming back to the market with 34 per cent of the company still in his pocket.

usually found only in football managers who are about to be sacked. Then came a minor setback last month, when sales fell below Car Group's high expectations.

Car Group

NAIVETY must be the accusation levelled at Car Group after yesterday's profits warning. The second-hand car supermarkets group is a very young company - it has existed in its current form for little more than three years.

Then came a minor setback last month, when sales fell below Car Group's high expectations. But it continued to plough on with its ambitious expansion plans.

DOLLAR RATES

Table listing dollar rates for various countries like Australia, Austria, Belgium, etc.

OTHER STERLING

Table listing other sterling rates for various companies like Argentina, Australia, etc.

FISE VOLUMES

Table listing FISE volumes for various companies like ASBA, ABN, etc.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table listing European money deposits for various currencies like Dollar, Deutschmark, etc.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table listing gold and precious metals prices for Bullion, Kruggerand, etc.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table listing sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies like Mkt Rates, Amsterdam, etc.

FISE INDEX (%)

Table listing FISE index for various companies like BHP, BP, etc.

السنة من الايام

TRAVEL



First stop in France: our guide to the top restaurants

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HOME LIFE



Why do celebrity yobs beat up their girlfriends?

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DRINK

JANE MACQUITY 100 BEST SUMMER WINES

The season's Top 20 bottles for under £3.50

PAGE 7

ANNE ROBINSON



Who cares if Jeffrey Archer faked his CV?

PAGE 3

SATURDAY JUNE 13 1998

THE TIMES WEEKEND

My London season by Ivana Trump

No one does the Season like the Queen of New York. Andrew Yates meets the multimillionaire fresh off Concorde to discover how she keeps her legs, her bank balance — and her daughter — in shape for the best of British events

Mrs Trump is picking delicately at crudites in San Lorenzo, the Knightsbridge restaurant where Diana, Princess of Wales felt at home. She drinks iced tea. Her daughter Ivanka, tall, porcelain-skinned, pretty and as precocious a 16-year-old as I have met, sits opposite her, toying with her macaroni. They are discussing cosmetic surgery. "If you feel insecure because you have a huge nose or whatever," says Ivanka, 49, in her thick Slavic accent, "then I definitely would recommend that you do something about it. You only have one life. I did have plastic surgery. I had my eyes done. From my father I had the dark circles underneath my eyes and to do it once, it's OK. But, you know, when you have the 50 plastic surgeries as a woman, that's crazy." Ivanka chips in: "There are certain flaws that make you an individual, certain things that you should keep. You shouldn't become a Barbie doll. But if something bothers you and you can't feel secure in public, then sure, why not?" Ivanka is at college. Her mother says she wants to be a lawyer. She says she wants to become a property developer. In the meantime, to earn some cash, she does some catwalk shows as a model. She has no plans at present for cosmetic surgery. "I'm just 16. But, who knows, when I'm 60 I might want to have my face done." Ivanka and Ivana have hit town to do the Season. Every June the Queen of New York arrives from America in time for Ascot but this will be Ivanka's first time in the Royal Enclosure. "I went two years ago but I was too young [the age limit is 16]. They tried to smuggle me in..." Ivanka interrupts: "Shhh... don't say... you know what happened

Continued on page 3



What a knees-up: Ivana Trump, left, with Cameron Mackintosh and Shirley Bassey at a party to celebrate Mackintosh's London show Hey, Mr Producer!

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L A N V I N L H O M M E

Britons are under siege from tourism, reports Edward Marriott

Locals caught in a tourist trap

It is not the sort of thing that you would imagine happening in Bath, one of Britain's most genteel cities. Last month, Guy Huxley-Parlour, the owner of a bus-tour company, walked out of his house to discover that a fire had been set underneath his Mercedes, burning out the undercarriage. It was not the first time he had encountered such vandalism: in the past six years the windows of three of his buses have been smashed in, and he himself has been punched in the face "a number of times".

The blame, he believes, lies with one of his four competitors: in a city of such impeccable Georgian credentials, where a full tour bus can bring in £1,000 a day, tourism is an exceedingly lucrative, and ruthless, business. "If you thought the ice-cream wars were bad news," he says, "just take a look at the bus wars in Bath."

For the average citizen of Bath, however, the main cause of distress is the sheer volume of traffic. And this week, in protest, the residents of the Royal Crescent, Bath's most famous street, have been trying to lobby the local authority to ban tour buses from their Grade I-listed crescent. With ten to 20 buses passing their windows each hour, they want the council to call a halt.

Tourism, as we never cease to be reminded, is the "business-growth sector" of our age. The figures are monumental: in 1996 alone, Britain "welcomed" 25 million overseas visitors, a one million increase on the year before. But the human cost is only recently beginning to emerge. Not only can the fight for the tourist pound trigger violent clashes, but, throughout Britain, wherever there is a tourist attraction, so there are increasing numbers of ordinary people living under siege.

Rudyard Kipling, almost a century ago, understood this all too clearly. The writer Andrew Lycett, researching a Kipling biography, explains that Kipling was forced to move from his home in the Sussex village of Rottingdean because of the volume of

tourists: "People used to come on bus tours from Brighton, and stop and stare at him as he went for his morning stroll. To get away from them, he moved to Batemans, which is in deep countryside near Hastings." Kipling may have escaped, but subsequent generations have not been so lucky.

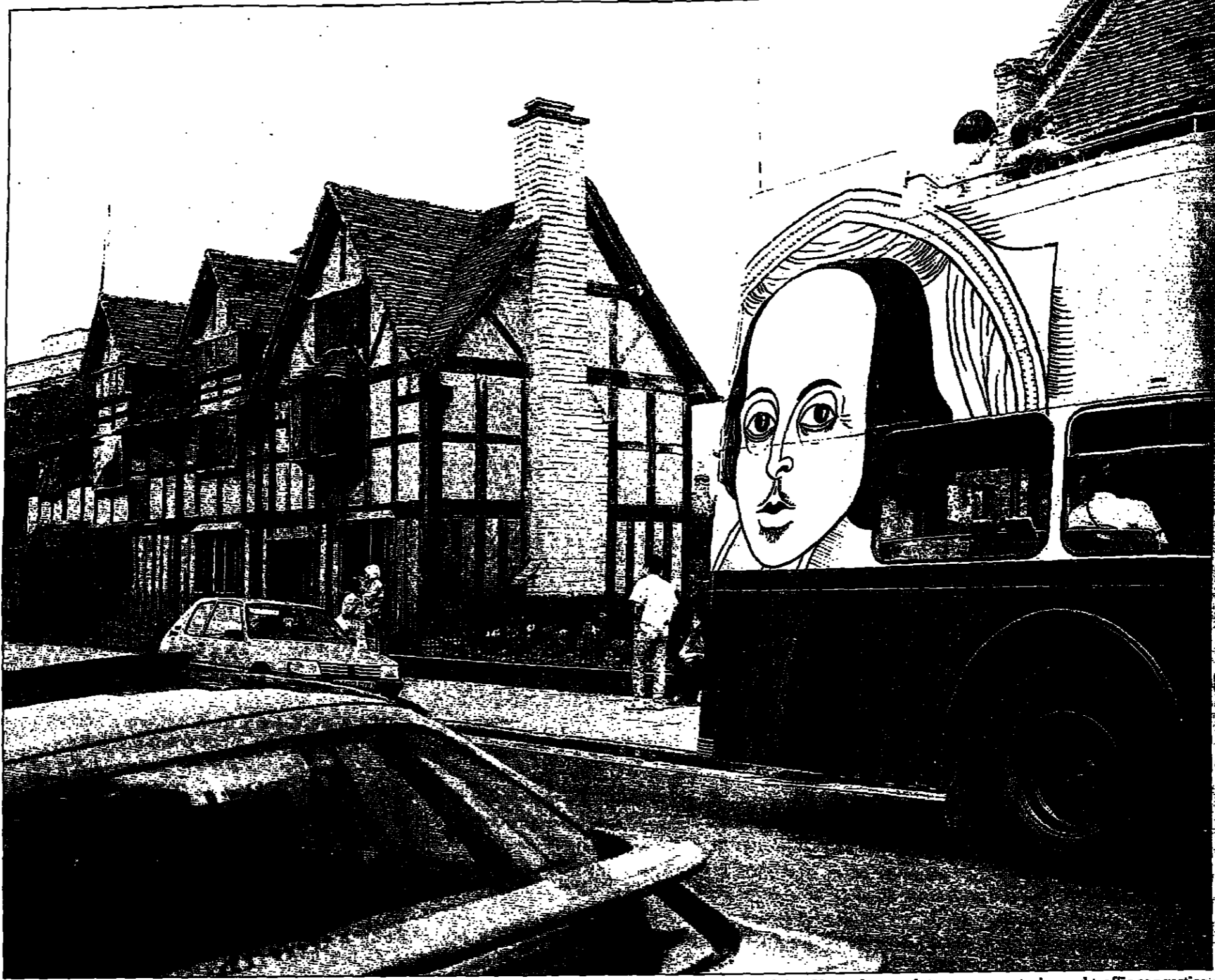
The nightmare months begin around now. Britain, whatever the architects of Cool Britannia might argue, sells itself most effectively on its "heritage" past and, in summer, many of its top attractions are virtually impassable. Biggest among these is Stratford-upon-Avon, a small town of 23,000 in a district which somehow manages to cope with 3.8 million tourists a year — a daily intake of about 11,000. Anne Taylor, South Warwickshire Tourism's marketing manager, says tourism offices try to explain to visitors that "Warwickshire has places of interest other than just Stratford. Hopefully we can reduce the impact on Stratford".

Stratford residents know all too well what such tourist-office speak means in practice. Fred Earnshaw, a retired secondary school teacher and town councillor, lives a stone's throw from Anne Hathaway's cottage in Shottery, a hamlet on the outskirts of Stratford. While recognising the financial importance of tourism to the town, he laments the volume of day-trippers and their fondness for bus and car travel. "They arrive in coaches to do everything — to go to the theatre, to go to the Shakespeare houses, to visit the Hathaway cottage. The tours that come up to Shottery come by every 15 minutes and from where I live you can hear their commentary as well. On the road, nothing can get past."

Earnshaw, like many other residents, does not possess a car. The Stratford he knew when he moved here in 1950 has, he believes, become a victim of its own tourist popularity. "A lot of wealthy people retire here and prices have shot up. No young person could afford to live here now."

Patrick McDermott, Sidney Sussex student union president, explains that the commentary from open-top tour buses was even audible during examinations. "After our protest, they agreed they would not begin the commentary until they passed the college. That was better for us, but worse for the people who lived further down the street."

Such is the height of the college walls that, from the top of a double-decker, you can see



Residents in Stratford-upon-Avon lament the volume of day-trippers, with their fondness for bus tours, and complain of intrusive coach tour commentaries and traffic congestion

The result: a once-vibrant town fast becoming a theme park full of ever-more disenfranchised residents.

In Cambridge, another peak tourist destination, frustration at the numbers of tour buses reached such a peak at Sidney Sussex College last year that undergraduates pelleted tourists with over-ripe tomatoes. The fact that they were subsequently threatened with expulsion did little to calm their fury.

Patrick McDermott, Sidney Sussex student union president, explains that the commentary from open-top tour buses was even audible during examinations. "After our protest, they agreed they would not begin the commentary until they passed the college. That was better for us, but worse for the people who lived further down the street."

Such is the height of the college walls that, from the top of a double-decker, you can see

clear over the college gates. This, too, is a continual irritant. Says McDermott: "People think of Oxford and Cambridge as historic sites. They seem to forget that real people work there." But he reports heartening news, evidence that a well-aimed vegetable can sometimes do the trick: this year, he says, has been "better".

The effect of any kind of tourism — lone or group — is worst in an area never designed for it, a category into which most of Britain, old and new, unfortunately fits rather neatly. The impending invasion of Number 20 Forthlin Road in Liverpool, by hordes of Beatles fans, strikes terror into the heart of Forthlin Road's other residents. This three-bedroom former council house was where Paul McCartney spent his teenage years and where many of the band's earliest numbers were written. It has been bought by



Not all of Britain welcomes 25 million overseas visitors

the National Trust, redecorated with the kind of swirly carpets popular when the McCartney family lived there from 1955 to 1964, and opens to the public from July.

Mrs Abraham, who lives opposite and prefers not to give her first name, says that

already four or five coachloads of visitors come each day. "Sometimes you can't get down the street, it's that busy." And, with an extra five National Trust minibuses scheduled for the summer, it is going to get a lot busier. Ken Gledhill, who lives next

door at number 18, sounds close to despair. "I don't want to sound like a killjoy, but it's like living in a goldfish bowl. When I moved in 11 years ago, I knew that Paul McCartney had lived here."

There might be a few people coming to take photos, I thought — but I never imagined

four or five coach tours a day. It's over the top and not conducive to the neighbourhood. It's a small road in a residential area. Penny Lane, by contrast, is a broad thoroughfare, and residents there profess little irritation at tourist interest.

As famous as he undoubtedly is, there is, of course, one star bigger even than Paul McCartney, and a company specialising solely in tours to her memory was launched last month. Nicola Pearce, founder of The Original Diana

Memorial Tours, promises non-invasive tourism. The residents of Coleherne Court, however, are already bracing themselves. Before she met Prince Charles, this Earl's Court mansion block was home to Diana and three girlfriends. With only one main entrance, the block was constantly under siege from press and tourists, and could well be again.

Amid all this enmity, with no prospect for anything but an endless escalation of hostilities, Mike Kennedy, development manager for the English Tourist Board, pleads for tolerance. In 1996, the year that more than 25 million foreigners visited our shores, 45.5 million Britons holidayed overseas. "It's right to be realistic about the effect of tourism," he says. "But most of us are doing the same on a regular basis to other places. All of us are tourists at one time or another."

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I can't get no tax relief

Jon Ashworth looks at the complex web of wealth behind pop stars who are worth millions



The Rolling Stones are just one example of 1960s rebels turned middle-aged businessmen

Rock fans like to remember their idols as they were on the album covers, such as the Beatles in the psychedelic splendour of Sgt Pepper. David Bowie glamming it up as Ziggy Stardust. But reality hit home this week: the rockers of the 1960s and 1970s have turned into middle-aged businessmen — accountants who happen to play the guitar. Musicians no longer sit around smoking dope; instead they track share prices and read Inland Revenue press releases. It is all thoroughly disheartening.

Last year's spectacle of Bowie donning a suit and selling his soul to Wall Street was bad enough. Now we have Mick Jagger, the ultimate 1960s rock rebel, cancelling four Rolling Stones gigs this summer over a tax liability. Admittedly quite a big one. But this, to the fans, is proof of how far rock has fallen.

The Rolling Stones are no longer a band; they are an industry. Record and CD sales, merchandising, concerts and video rights all add up to a multimillion-pound marketing opportunity. The Stones' last tour, Voodoo Lounge, made the band about £90 million, with as much again forecast for the current extravaganza, Bridges to Babylon. Jagger once quipped that the tours were his "pension

scheme", and he was only half-joking. Philip Norman, the rock biographer, famously observed of the Stones as far back as 1990: "They are now like the directors of a company who have a board meeting on stage every seven years."

Rock stars, like authors, complain with some justification about the vast amounts skimmed off by record companies and publishers. In the case of the Stones, the sheer depth of a 30-year back catalogue leaves plenty to go round. Jagger, 35 next month, is worth a reputed £140 million, according to the annual rich list compiled by The Sunday Times. This makes him Britain's fourth richest musician, behind Sir Paul McCartney on £500 million, and David Bowie and Sir Elton John on £150 million each.

Keith Richards, 54, joins Phil Collins on £105 million, but there is hardly a look-in for the other Stones, with Charlie Watts, the drummer, registering a paltry £60 million. Ronnie Wood has to make do with £45 million, and Bill

Wyman, who left the band in 1993, gets by on about £25 million. The transformation from young rebels to men-in-suits dates to the late 1960s, when Jagger set about restoring, some order to the Stones' chaotic finances. By 1969, for all their success, the Stones could hardly have been in a worse position financially.

Failing to read the small print in their contract, the band had signed over all the rights to their material to Alan Klein, the hard-nosed New York lawyer who later featured in the break-up of the Beatles. Jagger turned for advice to Rupert Lowenstein, a Bavarian prince and one-time banker with Leopold Joseph, who had come to specialise in the affairs of rock stars. He cut the Stones free from their contract and remains their business manager to this day, although Klein's influence persists.

Klein's Abko Music & Records Inc. takes a cut every time hits like *Honky Tonk Woman* are played, and continues to play a role — if an

unwelcome one — in the band's wider financial empire. In 1991, it was Klein, not Lowenstein, who granted permission for *I Can't Get No Satisfaction* to be used in a commercial for Snickers chocolate bars — for a fee of \$4 million. The reported cut to Jagger and Richards was \$2.8 million.

Lowenstein went one better with the Stones' hit from the 1980s, *Start Me Up*, which was used by Microsoft in the launch advertisements for Windows 95. Microsoft reportedly paid \$6 million for a 30-second clip from the song. One-offs aside, Lowenstein's skill lies in shifting the Stones' fortune around the world's money markets, and in drawing up complicated tax shelters with the help of accounting firms such as Ernst & Young. Legal advice is provided by Smyth Barkham, a London law firm.

It is difficult to glean very much about Lowenstein — other than that he moves in high-society circles and spends much of his time attending memorial services to the rich and famous. Said to resemble

Robert Morley, he is in his sixties and lives in Gloucestershire.

Andy Taylor, chairman of Sanctuary Group which looks after heavy metal band Iron Maiden, says rock artists tend to favour rock-solid investments like pensions and property. Favourites include insured investment funds, which offer returns of 8-10 per cent, although property looms large in the Stone's portfolio.

David Bowie took the lid off a whole new cauldron last year, when investors on Wall Street were offered bonds paying income against royalties on the Bowie back catalogue. The so-called "Bowie bonds" raised about £34 million for the star's immediate use.

Rod Stewart recently clinched a similar £9.2 million securitised loan against revenues from his music publishing catalogue. Several other acts, including the Stones, are said to be contemplating similar issues.

With money comes temptation. Stung's accountant, Keith Moore, was jailed for six years for stealing £6 million from the singer, who had 108 bank accounts. Stung did not realise the money was missing until he was tipped off.

As for the row over the Stones and their £12 million tax bill, advisers think the Government has shot itself in the foot. Slamming the door on a tax loophole without the customary hand-over period snafus of Old Labour at its worst. There are already indications that several artists are contemplating going "non-resident", shifting revenues far beyond the reach of the British taxman.

That would hurt Britain far more than it ever will the Old Men of Rock.

THE TIMES
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Anne Robinson



● WE ARE out of our house in the country while it is lovingly restored. A year-long sentence, living six miles and three villages away. When we chose a home to rent we imagined we'd picked somewhere near enough not to make a difference. But the change is enormous. And I am constantly reminded of Jonathan Miller, a confirmed North Londoner, once saying that visiting South London was a bit like having to go to Spain. Perhaps it is the insular nature of Brits that despite a common language and an almost common postal code, village communities like to run their own little kingdoms. Asked to the odd drinks parties, we've met all sorts of people we have never clapped eyes on before. Also, our temporary village is larger and so far I do not know the name of the postman. I do not know the name of the vicar. Or even the name of anyone's dog. No matter, in training for the return home, I have taken to driving a

round-trip of 1.2 miles and buying the papers from the shop in our own village. Frankly, it's quicker than putting on mascara and finding track suit bottoms that match the top before venturing out. ● LUNCH WITH Nick Lowe, clinical professor of dermatology at UCLA. I ask him what he thinks of the news that hospitals here are publishing death rates. And add that each time I watch yet another consultant on the *Today* programme or *Nightnight* saying that this sort of data can be "misleading and confusing". I hear a profession wriggling to avoid public scrutiny. He says he's astonished how a doctor's level of competence has remained for so long a closed book in this country. In Los Angeles his medical licence has to be renewed every two years. His performance is reviewed, as is his knowledge. So there's no question of just cruising to the odd lecture. Or being able to kill off patients at an alarming rate without anyone noticing.

● WHAT IRKS Sir Timothy Kitson? Scuppering Lord Archer's chances of becoming Mayor of London because he might have a credibility problem is a bit like objecting to Pavarotti because he's fat. Yet again everyone has been shaking and rattling Archer's early CV. At some point a handful of O levels became A levels and a US degree. So what? In the Sixties,

when no one seemed to bother to check, exaggerated credentials, particularly for those of us in journalism, were regarded as a sign of initiative. It's not as if we were applying to perform major heart surgery or to operate dangerous machinery. Sailing close to the wind is Jeffrey's great skill. A man in too much of a rush to bother with fine detail. I once attended a lunch for

Women of Achievement. Inexplicably, he was the guest speaker. He must only have scanned his invitation. Or had left his glasses at home. He urged us all to work hard. To take education seriously and to try and pass as many exams as possible. Our table, pretty indicative of the company he was keeping, included Rabbi Julia Neuberger, Christina Foyle and Dame Iris Murdoch.

● JOHN DIAMOND is currently publishing his wonderful book *C: Beating Towards Get Cancer Too*. He gives good spin. It's fascinating how differently people have reacted to his illness and the humbug he's encountered. The last time he and I met I had no idea about his condition. It was shortly after the election, at a dinner to discuss New Labour and its effect on newspapers. The batting was opened by historians Ben Fimlort and Conrad Russell, after which things pretty well headed off in the direction of Pseud's Corner. Towards the end John was asked to say a few words and suggested a good thing for a newspaper to do would be to run a campaign on education that ran every day for a year. As we left I said to him there were many ways to kill circulation, but his would surely be one of the most effective. John, being his usual genial, irrepressible self, agreed and said, unexpectedly called upon, it was the best he could

come up with. But what if I'd known about his diagnosis? Might I instead have complimented him on his brainwave? And which would he have preferred? ● THE OTHER week I wrote that, for me, Jeremy Paxman's grilling of Michael Howard was, well, better than sex. Several responses. Marjorie Hardcastle from Tonbridge says it doesn't amount to much because, aged 58 and blissfully single again, most things are better than sex. George Foreman considers a new '91 Porsche Cabriolet and decent weather for the cricket are certainly in the same league. Mary Hanson asks if it's fair to my husband to make such personal comparisons? She worries unduly. Penrose declares he's too much of a gentleman to join in the debate but, if he did, the CD-Rom compendium of *Pevsner's Buildings of England*, which its compiler has kindly allowed him to have on approval for a month, might make it a very close call.

Continued from page 1 to Joan Collins. (Collins was banned from the Royal Enclosure after wearing somebody else's badge). Ivanka continues: "Anyway, I'm really looking forward to it." Ascot next week is a distant horizon, however, in the whirl of parties and social engagements that have been organised for Ivanka by Liz Brewer, her social fixer in London. Ivanka had arrived a day late from New York. "I was supposed to come on Friday but did not make it because I did purchase a hotel, a modest 57-storey number to be called Ivanka Suites. So I got on the Concorde on Saturday morning which landed at six in the evening."

That same evening, she was partying at the Hurlingham Club where Louis Vuitton was holding its annual classic car show: "I like classic cars. I own three antique cars and then I have a fleet of normal cars." From Heathrow, Ivanka had gone to her flat in Belgravia, changed, relaxed with Brewer and a bottle of champagne, then arrived at the party to a shower of paparazzi flashbulbs. Afterwards, she went with friends to Annabel's where she stayed until it closed at 3.30 in the morning. "I always say that I work on the three speeds: fast, faster and faster plus," she says. "Saturday evening was faster plus OK. And the dancing... I love dancing. Number one it is good exercise, number two I love the music. I like the country, the soft jazz and the classical. If I go to Annabel's I ask the disc jockey to make me a tape, either slow, disco or the cocktail music."

In the morning, her trainer arrives at 8.30. "I closed Annabel's. I slept for about two hours and then the trainer woke me up." She is particular about her trainer, who was hired for her by Brewer. "If somebody wakes me up in the morning, breaks my back with the exercises and is costing me a fortune, he must be a good-looking man. At least you have something to look at." Ivanka, too, is forced into the regime. "It's training every morning, baby," says her mother. "You have to look after yourself, otherwise you can't do it, you can't keep going." The young model is resigned to her early mornings. "It's a conspiracy," she says. "She just wants to wake me up. She finds it perfectly fine at six in the morning to say, 'You were so cute. I just had to wake you up.'"

When Ivanka entertained some English guests at her Palm Beach villa — the playboy baronet Sir Benjamin Slade was one — they were woken by trainers at eight every morning and were refused breakfast until they had completed an hour's fitness regime. "I take care of my

people," she explains. "You have to take care of yourself. When my trainer comes, I do my tummy, my arms and a lot of stretching because I have a bad back from a skiing accident. And then I do a bit of the power kick boxing. This morning I did the jogging. I do six miles in 40 minutes."

Ivanka has moved on to her second course — pre-wins on a bed of rockets, and I we are interrupted by Annabel Heseltine, who happens to be passing by. "Annabel," shrieks Brewer. "How are you?" An air-kiss or two later, Heseltine, who recently announced her engagement to Peter Butler, a surge on, moves on. "If anyone needs a prenuptial agreement," she does," says Brewer as soon as Heseltine is out of sight. "Her father [Michael] is one of the richest men in the country."

And so the conversation drifts on to marriage contracts. I ask Ivanka what she thinks. "Well," she admits, "I am a little bit of an expert." But she will not be drawn on Heseltine's situation and refuses to talk about the agreement she made her second husband Riccardo Mazzucchelli (from whom she is now divorced) sign before she consented to marry him. Ivanka is extremely rich — newspapers have estimated her to be worth £201 million — but she will not discuss it: "I don't want to talk about the money." She will not even discuss her clothes: "The newspapers say I spend \$100,000 or \$200,000 on my wardrobe. It's ridiculous." Ivanka joins us again: "She hates to shop. I am her personal shopper. She has no patience. I am much more patient, especially when it comes to spending."

Ivanka: "I hate it. I really hate it. This is the perception which is wrong, but I do not go shopping. She [Ivanka] buys my underwear. I go to the fashion shows. This is how I shop. The designers have my measurements and I phone them up. We have the same size in shoes, which is big trouble. She is always using my shoes. Double trouble."

Ivanka's taste in clothes has changed since she left Donald, her first husband. "He was more of the show-off, he wanted me to be more in the fro-fro (sic) and I really don't like fro-fro. I like more classical, feminine silhouettes. Especially if you keep in shape. "Sometimes you want to make an entrance because you are master of the ceremonies or something, and you have a beautiful gown with the long train, fine — but then you have the classical pieces, which are the investment in your wardrobe. If I buy the cashmere sweater, that's investment because it's very expensive. "You cannot go wrong with classical in the cream or brown or grey. That's what you



Party on with, from left, Donald Trump with Ivanka, Ivanka and Ivanka's boyfriend, Count Roffredo Gaetani d'Aragona; Ivanka in Prague, 1970s; Ivanka with Ivanka and her mother, 1995



'I always work on the three speeds: fast, faster and faster plus'

do to jazz it up is the accessories. Putting colour into them from the accessories. It took me years to learn this. Donald had different ideas and I tried to please him so I was wearing more of the colour. "In the summer I like to go pastels to be feminine, the peach and the cream, maybe the aqua." She pronounces it as "ackva", in a thick accent unaffected by years in New York. "My Czech is spotless maybe because of my mum," she says. "My mum spends about eight months a year with us, and I have a housekeeper which is from Croatia. Some people who speak my languages — Ivan Lendl, Martina Navratilova — they can't speak Czech any more. I don't work on my accent. Trust me. But I make a fortune out of it. I do the voice-overs and the advertisements."

Her latest contribution in the field is an advertisement for Kentucky Fried Chicken, which sells a bun loaded with chicken and salad called the Tower — the ad men liked the play on Trump Tower. "On the way back from the polo on Sunday we were hungry," says Brewer. "So we stopped in Tooting at the Kentucky Fried Chicken and she was in this beautiful new Rolls behind us and of course we took the Tower out and she ate it. She'd never had one before."

Ivanka dissents: "Well, during a photo shoot they asked me to bite into one and I thought 'no, no, no, no', so I gave it to my partner. It was cold and it had been sitting on the street for five hours. No way was I going to have that."

The Tooting version went down well, however. "It was yummy (sic), really yummy. It was my cholesterol for the next three months also. When I am working, if I get hungry I just eat the white of the eggs. It has all the protein. I have always had the boiled eggs. I take them everywhere I go. I don't

want to eat constantly the junk food."

And Ivanka does work hard. She has unashamedly used her famous face to promote her House of Ivanka make-up, costume jewellery and clothes on American television-shopping channels. She once sold \$250,000 worth in 15 minutes. "I wake up at six and there is always faxes [sic] gets through a roll of fax paper each day when in London. By the nine o'clock I have done my work. And then my trainer comes."

Ivanka, too, takes business seriously. "I am investing the money I earn through my broker," she says. "She has to be able to manage her money," adds Ivanka. "She follows the shares."

However, the two are in London to play. "When I am working, I am out only two times a week. If not, your business is going to go busted and you are going to die," explains Ivanka calmly. Here she is on vacation — lunches every day, parties every night, a spot of polo, some racing and a number of weekend country house parties — before heading to the Mediterranean for a two-month sojourn on her multimillion-dollar yacht, *Ivanka*. "This is vacation, working vacation," she says. "I love London. We are going to have so much fun here this month. My children are in boarding schools [in America] so it's like a hit-and-run when they come home at the weekend."

Suddenly, she has drunk her espresso and she has to leave. She must organise a dinner party, which means getting her hair done and talking to friends about the place settings and looking through her wardrobe for the right outfit — classical but, since she is hosting, a little fro-fro. After an air-kiss or two, she and Ivanka depart.

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INTRODUCING THE NEW FRAGRANCE FOR MEN

LANVIN

Antique mirrors – the dancer's achilles heel

There is a reason why many of the customers in Gervais Duc's dusty cellars are long-legged, graceful and poised. Ballet dancer Darcey Bussell has introduced so many of her friends and fellow dancers from the Royal Ballet to Architectural Antiques since discovering it eight years ago, that even Mr Duc admits she should be on commission.

Darcey Bussell is passionate about Architectural Antiques, says Mike Cable

Picking her way carefully among several hundred fireplaces stacked in the catacombs beneath his shops on either side of King Street in Hammersmith, West London, Ms Bussell pauses to admire a fine early 19th-century example in Siena marble. By far the most expensive piece in the shop at £12,000, it is well out of her price range, she says. "Ballet dancers are not like opera singers, you know – for one thing we don't have CDs to sell."

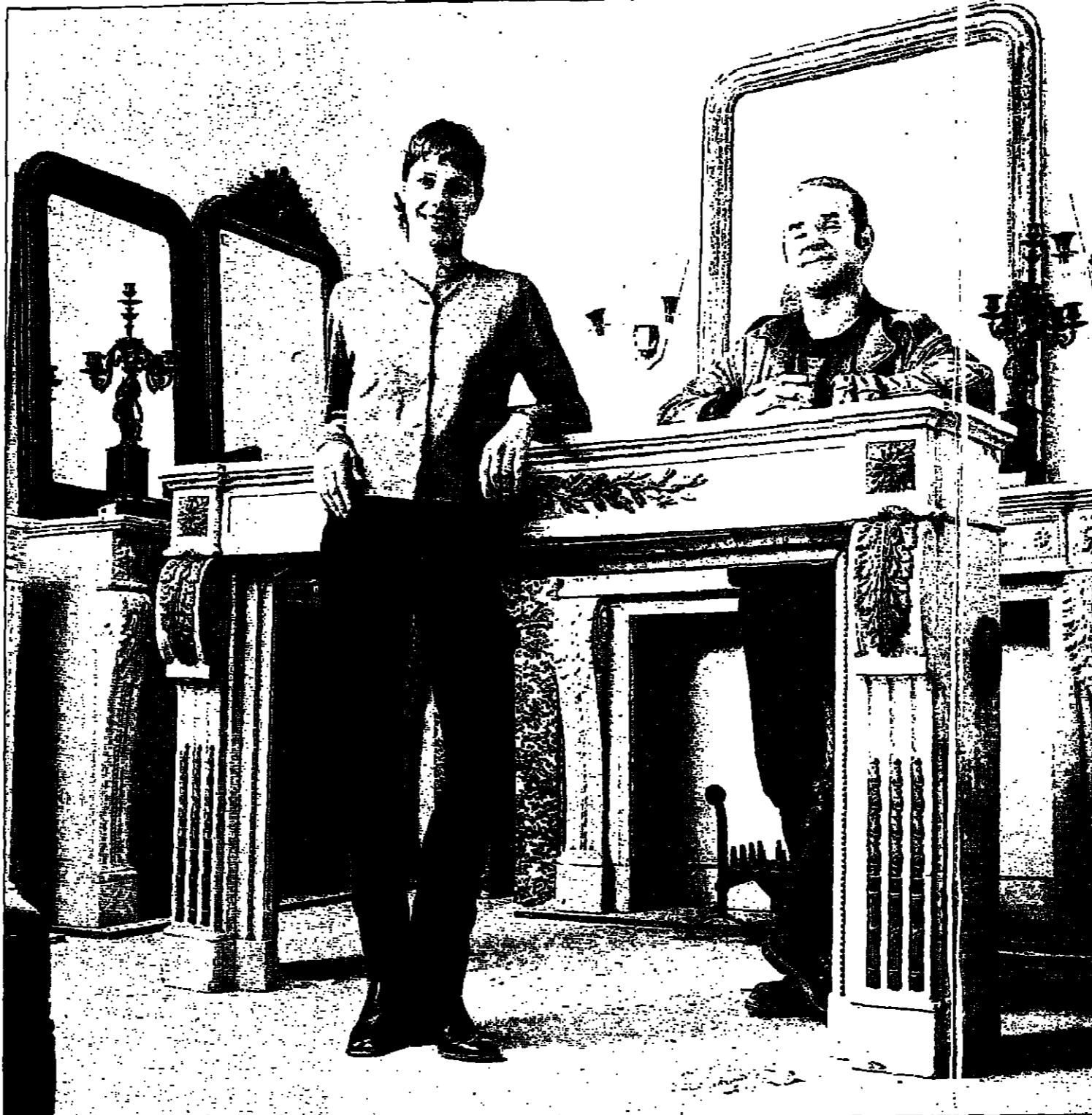
She was 21 and already a rising star of the Royal Ballet when she made her first visit here and bought a marble fire surround and two mirrors for her flat, having just left home. More recently, following her marriage last summer to City financier Angus Forbes, she came back in search of another fireplace to match an existing one in the double reception room; now the room forms the central feature of the Earls Court house they have been gutting and doing up.

my favourite shop

She often pops in with her friends, to browse and occasionally to indulge a weakness for antique mirrors. "People probably think I'm vain because I have quite a few large mirrors around the house," she says. "But it's not that. It's just that if you have smallish, high-ceilinged, townhouse rooms, mirrors can transform them and help to give an impression of space."

Despite all the accolades, including an OBE, she is anxious to be seen as one of the girls, with none of the grand, prima ballerina aloofness of a Fonteyn or a Makarova.

Referred to natively as "Darcey" by friends and colleagues, including Gervais Duc, she insists with a smile: "Except when I am dancing, I try to keep my feet stuck firmly to the ground." She is also keen to get the message across that ballet is not just for a snobby elite. "It's half the price of the opera," she says. "Going to the ballet can be no more expensive than going to a football match, but people just don't see it that way. It would help if it was on television more but, unfortunately, ballet is difficult to film and doesn't come across well on screen."



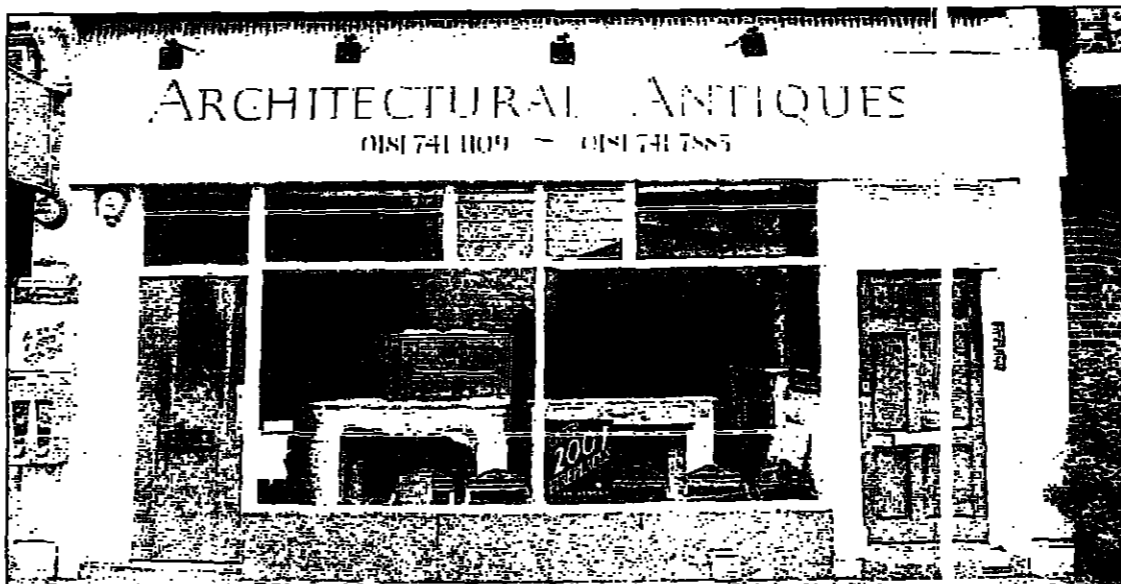
On the mantel shelf: Darcey Bussell and Gervais Duc, whose shop has one of the largest selections of antique fireplaces in London

to meet him. I'm quite happy to leave things as they are."

She is equally reluctant to say much about her husband, who she first got to know six years ago when he was living next door to her parents in Fulham, West London. Recent speculation about motherhood in the gossip columns was apparently premature, but she does not see her career as a bar to starting a family. "A lot of dancers have children and then come back to work, so it is possible to cope," she thinks. "I'd really regret it if I didn't have children eventually."

Meanwhile, she hopes to dance on for another ten years before the physical strain becomes too much. "Ballet is so much more athletic and strenuous than it used to be," she says. "Every morning when you wake up something is hurting."

Architectural Antiques, 351 & 324 King Street, London W6 9NH (0181-741 7883). Open: Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm.



Even Bussell cannot buy a £12,000 fireplace: "Dancers aren't like opera singers – we've no CDs to sell"

SHOP WATCH

Le Shop is one of those brilliant finds you will need if you are struggling to make curtains. It stocks double-width plain fabrics in loads of colours, plus linings, making joining widths a thing of the past. Find them at 220c Chiswick High Road, London W4 (0181-400 1433).

Thomas Pink's smart mail order catalogue has a solution to the tricky Father's Day dilemma. Order dad a special shirt and it will be dispatched gift-wrapped in a crisp box tied with black ribbon. Call 0171-498 3882 for a catalogue.

Melchior sells irresistible hand-made chocolates from a tiny Devon shop or will post you a selection direct, perfect for a dinner party. Swiss chocolatier Carlo Melchior creates special flavours from passion fruit to champagne, with prices from £10.25 for 250g. Tinto House, Station Road, South Molton, Devon (01769 574442).

Salon System sells imaginative beauty products by post. Let clubbing teenagers



Salon System's skin paint

loose on the Bindi Kit (£14.95), which has four body jewels plus extra paints, or get yourself Toe Drops nail varnish (£6.50), extra-hard to withstand the rigours of being shoved in and out of shoes. Call 0800 146298.

Ceramica Blue, always a treasure trove of hand-painted ceramics, has launched a wedding service. If you cannot bear the thought of traipsing round a department store, list in hand, go for a hand-painted spotty breakfast set from Holland, or 1960s-inspired graphic dinner plates. Visit the company at 10 Blenheim Crescent, London NW1 (0171-727 0288) or see its website.

UPDATE: Invest in metallic velvets or silver and perspex jewellery at the annual 'New Faces' selling exhibition (June 17-19) at the V&A's Crafts Council shop, 0171-589 5070 for details... Ocean's contemporary home-shopping catalogue has launched a mail-order wedding service (0870 8484840).

JUDITH WILSON

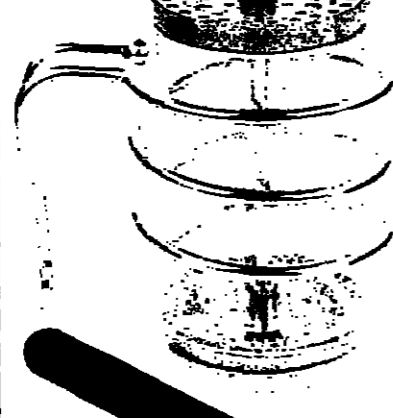
GADGETS

IT IS NOT just train spotters who will fall in love with the exciting Train Alarm Clock from Modern Originals. This is the piece de resistance of novelty bedside clocks and it is far from sleepy.

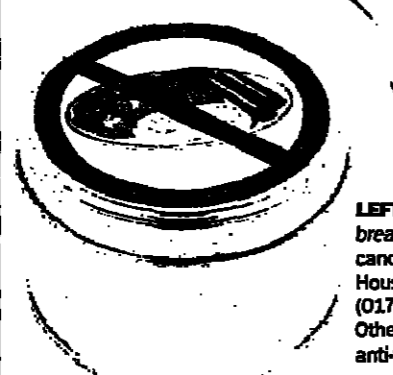
Moulded in the shape of the front of a steam engine, the black plastic model is fetchingly trimmed in burgundy and gold. The clock-face, set in the engine, features, in colour, a steam train with a level-crossing sign in the foreground. Below this is a 3D model of a train with Mount Fuji in the background.

Even heavy sleepers will want to open their eyes to soak up the alarm features. First come two evocative blasts of engine whistle, then the choo-choo soundtrack. But this is just the beginning. The background in the 3D model starts moving, it is on a loop, and the tiny train heads

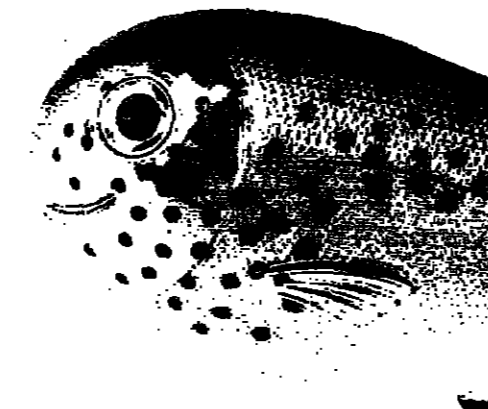
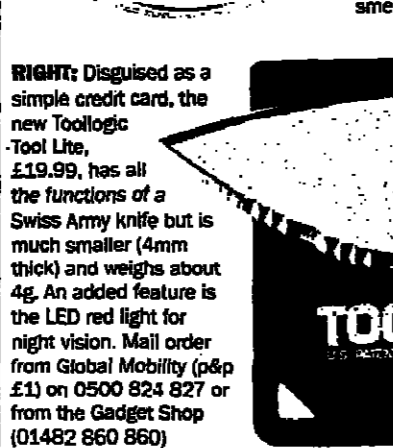
BELOW: The Hotjo Freshpress, £14.95, is an all-in-one cafetière and cup. So Dad can make his tea or coffee in the cafetière and drink it from the same vessel. The trick is to place the tea or coffee into the glass, add hot water, wait for three minutes, stir in the cream or milk, then press and drink. From ICTC (01603 488 019)



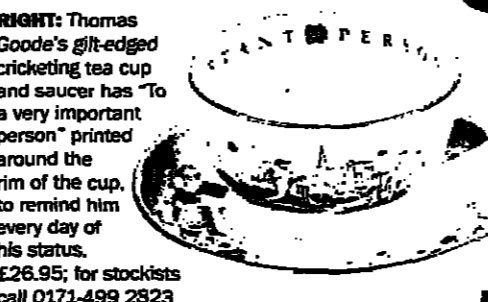
RIGHT: Shaped like a fried egg, sunny side up, is the Ovo novelty frying pan. It is non-stick and available for £29.99 from Brats (0171-351 7674)



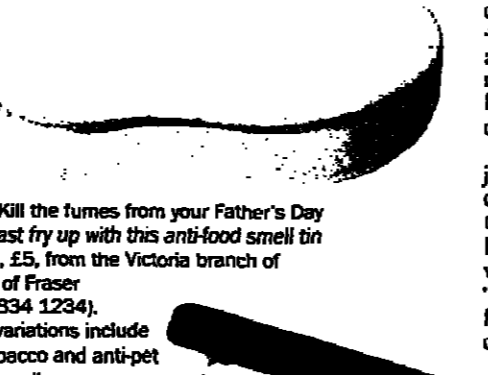
RIGHT: Disguised as a simple credit card, the new Toollogic Tool Lite, £19.99, has all the functions of a Swiss Army knife but is much smaller (4mm thick) and weighs about 4g. An added feature is the LED red light for night vision. Mail order from Global Mobility (p&p £1) on 0500 824 827 or from the Gadget Shop (01482 860 860)



BELOW: This nifty Fish lighter £9 (p&p £4.75) from mail-order company Barclay & Bodie (0171-372 5705) is for the ardent fisherman: a disposable lighter covered with a green and pink-bellied trout



RIGHT: Thomas Goode's gilt-edged cricketing tea cup and saucer has "To a very important person" printed around the rim of the cup, to remind him every day of his status. £26.95; for stockists call 0171-499 2923



LEFT: Kill the fumes from your Father's Day breakfast fry up with this anti-food smell tin candle, £5, from the Victoria branch of House of Fraser (0171-834 1234). Other variations include anti-tobacco and anti-pet smell candles



Father dear father

FATHER'S DAY PRESENTS

Not your handkerchief, splice your tie: next Sunday, June 21, is Father's Day, a chance to show your appreciation for the most important man in your life. Father's generally lose out when it comes to exciting gifts, and often don't get so much as a lousy card – card sales in Britain last year topped 40 million for Mother's Day, twice as many as for Father's Day. "Most sons will buy their mother a card, but not bother for their father," says Ray Cousins, managing director of the Greetings Card Association.

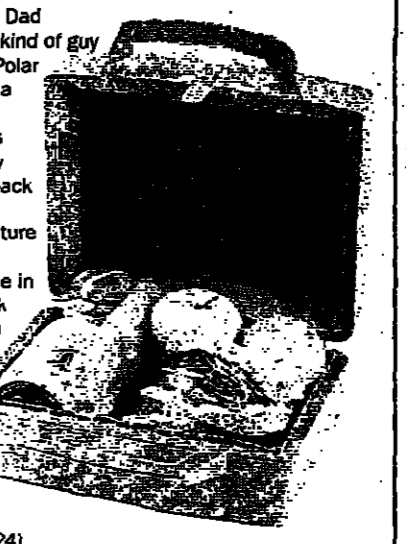
Poor old Pa deserves a better deal, and not just with a quickie card, hackneyed hanky or tiesome tie. How about, for instance, a topical footballer corkscrew from House of Fraser, featuring Alan Shearer holding a wine glass? Also with a sporty theme is the "Most Important Person" cup and saucer from Thomas Goode Ltd, illustrated with cricketers and large enough to hold a generous brew. Or, for dads who enjoy a good fry-up, the unusual Ovo egg pan from Brats. Shaped and coloured like an oversized egg, the pan has a fish-slice for a handle and a raised yolk for lifting the lid – perfect for those Sundays when he wants to make you brunch.

RIGHT: Ensure he is kept cool and comfortable (and presentable) with a monogrammed fluffy cotton bath robe, from £69.50, from the Monogrammed Linen Shop (0171-585 4033)

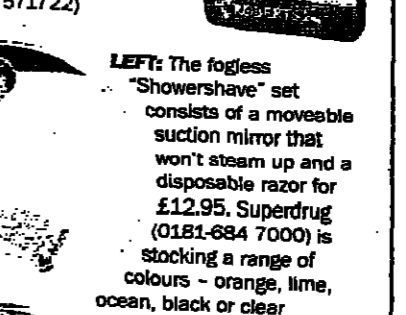


THE Footballer Corkscrew®
THE CORKSCREW WITH CHARACTER

ABOVE: For £12, football mad Dads can open bottles with their own special World Cup 98 edition character corkscrew. There are two variations to choose from: root for England with Alan Shearer or for Scotland with John Collins. From House of Fraser (0171-963 2236)



RIGHT: The Roberts digital mini radio (£40) will be a hit with fathers who are football fans. It is small enough to fit in his pocket, ensuring that he doesn't miss a minute of the World Cup games, and has 18 station presets, earphones for private moments and a loudspeaker for public listening. From Roberts Radios (01709 571722)



LEFT: The fogless 'Showershave' set consists of a moveable suction mirror that won't steam up and a disposable razor for £12.95. Superdrug (0181-684 7000) is stocking a range of colours – orange, lime, ocean, black or clear



ABOVE: This PVC hold-all bag for gardeners, £13 (incl p&p) has six handy pockets and is easy to keep clean. From 1 Countrywide Workshops (01550 720 414), a charity selling products made by people with disabilities

Discover the highs and lows

السنة من الأمل



White straw hat, £546, from Stephen Jones, 36 Great Queen Street, WC2 (0171-242 0770, ext 22). To fit in with the pared-down feel of this year's collections, and to complement the delicate, sheer fabrics, milliners have focused on neutral tones and natural fibres

Extravagance comes to a head



Straw swirl, £600, to order, Rachel Skinner, 47a Chalcot Road, NW1 (0171-483 1682)

It is not just catwalk clothing that becomes more outrageous. Every year at Ascot, the nation's milliners go all out to persuade us to join the ranks of their Mad Hatter's tea (or champagne) parties and adorn our heads with elaborate arrangements of flowers, acres of straw or fantastical creations of netting, ribbon and haberdasher's frippery.

who can afford that sort of money are Arabs — and they don't wear hats much," he said ruefully. The days of the couture milliner are fading as women turn increasingly to the high street to buy their society finery. Somerville now makes a ready-to-wear collection; Philip Treacy has created a range for Debenhams; Graham Smith has a line for Bhs; and Stephen Jones has a contemporary collection for Fenwick.

making them for ultra-glamorous people like Jerry Hall. But I also make hats for weddings, for bar mitzvahs, for special parties. Hats are for dressing up and are as relevant an accessory as any other, so should be sold at a price that most people can afford.

To fit in with the natural, pared-down feel of this year's collections, and to complement the delicate, sheer fabrics, milliners have focused on neutral tones, such as black, cream and tan, and natural fibres. As well as the perennial English favourite — straw — ultra-fine fibres such as sinamay (a lightweight straw produced from banana-leaf fibre) and even horsehair are being used to make feather-light creations with ultra-sheer brims.

This year's models are also simple and structured with few, if any, bows or tassels. Philip Treacy's latest straw model — a Fifties, Dior-inspired coolie hat (below) — is, he says, "a simple hat with a smart trim, not the other way round. I really don't agree with hats with frills". A sentiment which most women who know the value of classic, simple lines would agree with.



Straw hat, £80, Graham Smith for Bhs, selected branches (0171-262 3288)



Milanese straw hat, £250, Christine Bec (0171-727 3757)



Gold straw coolie hat, from £625, Philip Treacy, 69 Elizabeth Street, SW1 (0171-259 9605)



Black straw and gauze hat, £129, Miss Jones at Fenwick, Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161)



Umbrella hat, £749, Graham Smith at Harrods, SW1 (0171-730 1234)



Sophie Hat, £599, Saggi at Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1 (0171-730 1234)



Straw hat, £120, Philip Treacy for Debenhams (0171-408 4444)

Photographs by ANNA STEVENSON. Hair Styling by Craig Taylor at Time from Martyn Maxey (0171-629 6161). Make-up by Charlotte Day at Rocket using Cosmetics à la Carte. Styling by Amandip Uppal

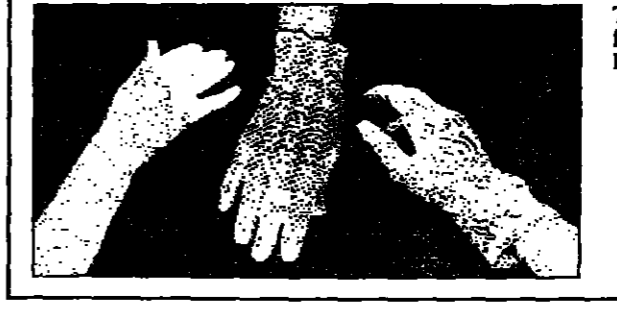
TURNING HEADS

AT EVERY celebrity wedding or event this Season, crowns will be adorned with sheer, natural fibres in basic tones, from black to pale cream. Lisa Grainger writes: Forget fuss: trailing wisps of raffia, layers of organza or ruffles of silk are the limit when it comes to adding adornments.



From the left: Liz Hurley wearing Stephen Jones for the Dent-Brocklehurst wedding; Caroline Hickman wearing a hat of her own design; model Sophie Crouch in Katherine Franklin-Adams; Roberta Iannone in a Frederick Fox creation

THREE OF A KIND



To complement this season's fine, natural hat fabrics, add a layer of lace to your fingers. LG
Left: Lace elbow-length gloves, £9.99, House of Fraser (0171-963 2236)
Middle: Crocheted lace gloves, £7.95, Cornelia James (0171-499 9423)
Right: Lace with gold thread, £6.99, Denis (01985 212291)

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The 100 best summer wines

JANE MACQUITY
100
BEST SUMMER WINES

Jane MacQuitty tells Robin Young about her search for the ultimate summer bottle

How much is it reasonable to spend on a bottle of wine? The world record is £105,000 paid by Malcolm Forbes for a bottle of 1787 Chateau Lafite of doubtful drinkability, which quickly dropped its cork under the bright lighting of a showcase in which it was displayed. When a Czech financier and his chums went drinking at Le Gavroche in Mayfair they happily shelled out £4,950 for a bottle of a top burgundy, a 1985 Romanée Conti, as part of a six-bottle session which set them back a total of £13,000.

Those who hunt "trophy wines" from mini-estates in Bordeaux, such as Chateau Le Pin, Valandraud or La Mondotte, fight with each other for the privilege of parting with £1,500 or more at auction to secure their prize. Yet Jane MacQuitty, *The Times* wine correspondent, says that all you really need pay for a "drop-dead delicious" wine is £3.50.

You will quickly realise that Ms MacQuitty is no wine snob, and she is also very far from being your average plonk publicist. Indeed, there are few wine writers in Britain who are better acquainted with the classic vintages and higher echelons of wine. Yet year after year, winter and summer, she tastes between 2,000 and 3,000 wines to come up with her Top 100.

that by seeking low-priced value-for-money wines you are dragging the wine trade down," she says. "The truth is that the average price paid for a bottle of wine in Britain is still only about £3.38. That is not because people do not care about wine, but for the very simple reason that a lot of people can't afford to pay any more for what is still seen as a luxury.

"But I am never going to subscribe to the school of wine writing that says that if it is cheap, it must be good. Three of the bestselling wine books in Britain have 'plonk' in the title. It does no one any good to recommend to people who may be new to wine that they should buy wines that are, in many cases, plain awful. In fact, that is unforgivable, but far too common."

Equally reprehensible, Ms MacQuitty says, is the other side of the wine-writing coin: assuming that something must be good because it is expensive. "The wine world is full of people who are willing to take any advantage they can of past reputations or supposedly illustrious associations," she says. "It is my job to ensure they don't get away with it."

She cites the case of some wines recently brought to the market by Angelo Gaja, a lauded winemaker. "His reputation went before him, so British wine writers were falling over themselves to say how marvellous his more modest country wines were, even though they are sold at £15 a bottle. But the truth is that they are not good enough."

Refusal to be bowled over by the great names of the wine world does not endear anyone to its denizens.

"The reason that I am not afraid to stand up and tell it



Jane MacQuitty tasted between 2,000 and 3,000 wines before she produced her Top 100 Wines of Summer. Her verdicts do not always endear her to the wine trade

like it is," she says, "is because I am confident of my own critical faculties. Too often in writing it is a case of the emperor's new clothes. People subscribe to the party line because they have no confidence that they know any better. Well, I do know better and I am not frightened to put my reputation on the line."

Apart from her father, Ms MacQuitty acknowledges one other mentor, the late James Rogers, sometime wine-buyer for Cullen's and later a freelance wine consultant. Known in the trade as "the Nose" (his

particularly prominent and perceptive), Mr Rogers was a speedy and accurate wine taster with whom I regularly worked on tasting panels.

Like Mr Rogers, Ms MacQuitty always relates the price of wine to its quality. "If I can find a wine sold at £3.50 or less that seems worth paying £6 or £7 for, then I know I am on to a winner," she says.

Mr Rogers' technique, when working as a professional wine-buyer, was to taste all samples sent in blind (without

knowing provenance or reputation) and then to make his own note of a suitable selling price. If, when the bottles were unwrapped, the price at which he would have to buy enabled him to sell at his chosen retail price, the wine went on to the shelves. If not, it went out of the door.

"Most wine writers simply do not do enough tasting blind," Ms MacQuitty says. "They see the labels and know the reputations, and let that influence their thinking. They circulate at trade tastings, comparing notes, chatting with the

winemakers, having cosy lunches with the wine merchants and trying to pick each other's brains, sometimes agreeing common verdicts. The wine-drinking public deserves better.

"There is a lot of dross sold by British wine retailers at all price levels," she says. "But the good news is that while you can easily pay more than £12 and get nothing really worth drinking, there are a few shafts of light at the bottom of the price scale, where you get really good wines being sold at truly bargain prices."

On the opposite page Ms MacQuitty begins her Top 100 Wines of Summer with the best 20 wines for under £3.50. You are best advised to seek out these labels before other *Times* readers beat you to it.

If you think that you can stretch to a bit more than £3.50 for that extra quality or longevity, Ms MacQuitty will have further recommendations of the best 20 wines under £5, £7.50, £12.50 and £20 respectively in the coming weeks. A MacQuitty recommendation at £20. Now that must be something!

EVENING WITH JANE MACQUITY

Readers are invited to a wine tasting dinner tutored by Jane MacQuitty at The Park restaurant at Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, London SW1 on Thursday, July 9. The three-course menu, including a R de Ruinart Brut champagne reception and all wines, is priced at £99 per person. For a reservation call Takka Bartels or Sandy Strutt on 0171-235 2000.

The Times Cook

There's a culinary revolution sweeping our high streets, bringing the best in restaurants and food shops within reach

Shop in Paradise, lunch at Mum's? It sounds a recipe for a perfect morning. It is also an indication that possibly the greatest food revolution, and the most welcome, is quietly happening in our cities. Paradise is not exactly on my doorstep: it's a short hop on the No 46 bus, or a brisk walk across Hampstead Heath to Kentish Town. This part of north London has never been known as a gastronomic destination, but its inhabitants are remarkably well served.

Not far from the supermarkets of Camden, Paradise (0171-284 2402) offers one of the most delightful shopping experiences imaginable. I always go in determined just to have a look round, but the artichokes are so fresh, tight and inexpensive that I take two, no, four, and a couple of custard apples, too.

Next, small plump aubergines, green beans and some chillies to cook in a lamb curry go into my shopping basket. I pick up a bundle of broad rice noodles for the next time I want to cook beef "ho fun".

bean feast at lunch and dinner. Curried goat with rice and peas, ackee and cod fish, also with rice and peas, jerk chicken, roti and patties, all the favourites are there. It is delicious food; wholesome, full of flavour and served with great good humour and not a little sternness. Everyone calls her "Mum".

More and more neighbourhoods are beginning to support such good restaurants and food shops. In South End Green there are two fine Italian shops: Giacobazzi's, and the Delicatessen Shop, run by the Cavaciuti's. And if you want to eat out, there is Cucina and Dominique's, not to mention Zamoski's Vodka Bar and Polish restaurant.

On Marylebone High Street in London is the much enlarged Villandry shop and restaurant. In its old premises is Ibla, a charming restaurant with a small menu and wine list that is overseen by owner Signor Fellicano, a refugee from Bond Street's fashion industry.

St John's Wood is blessed with cafes and patisseries, including Maison Blanc and Richoux, and nearby is one of the capital's best food shops, Panzer's Delicatessen. It is good news that we are no longer limited to "destination" restaurants and fancy food halls on one hand, and supermarkets and chain restaurants on the other. And this revolution in the neighbourhoods of north London is happening elsewhere, too. But it has to be nurtured at all costs. As a notice in Hampstead exhorts us: "This is your local shop. Use it or lose it."

Ackee and smoked haddock with rice and peas
Serves 4
2tbsp olive oil
1 small onion, peeled and thinly sliced
1tsp mild curry paste
250g basmati rice
450ml water
100g fresh peas
Thick cut of smoked haddock fillet, about 400g, cut into four pieces
1 can ackee

Heat the olive oil in a lidded saucepan and in it gently fry the onion until golden brown, before adding the curry paste and rice. Stir and then add the water. Bring to the



Frances Bissell

boil, lower the heat, cover and cook the rice for 15 minutes. Open the pan, stir in the peas and place the fish on top. Replace the lid and let the rice finish cooking, and the peas and fish cook in the steam for about 5-8 minutes more. Empty the ackee into a saucepan, heat and drain. To serve, spoon the rice into shallow soup plates, put the fish on top and spoon the ackee around it. This dish borrows from a couple of traditional recipes, and makes an excellent brunch, lunch or supper. The curry paste can be left out, and a few whole spices, such as crushed cardamom pods, a stick of cinnamon or a few cloves, stirred into the rice.

Baked whole fish, stuffed with herbs
Serves 4 to 6
3tbsp extra virgin olive oil
6 to 8 shallots, peeled and finely chopped
6 to 8 springs each of flat-leaf parsley, mint and coriander, leaves only, finely chopped
2 dried limes, soaked and chopped, or use 1 fresh lime, chopped
6 to 8 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
1/2tsp each salt, freshly ground black pepper, cumin, turmeric and paprika
1-1/2 kg whole fish, such as a grey mullet, sea bass, small line-caught cod or large

mackerel, scaled, cleaned and backbone removed
2 whole garlic heads
Fresh lime or lemon juice (see recipe)
Salt
5tbsp extra virgin olive oil
Fresh herbs
Gently fry the shallots in oil until soft, and then stir in the herbs and seasoning. Use this mixture to stuff the fish, and secure closed with skewers or thread. Wrap in oiled foil, and bake for about 40 minutes in a pre-heated oven at 180-200C, gas mark 4 to 6. While the fish is cooking, bake two large heads of garlic. Squeeze

out the pulp and beat in the lime or lemon juice, salt and olive oil to make a dressing of mayonnaise-like consistency.

When the fish is cooked, remove and transfer to a serving platter. Garnish with fresh herbs and lime wedges, and serve the garlic sauce separately.

Beef "ho fun"
Serves 2
200g organic beef fillet or feather steak
1/2tsp each light muscovado sugar and freshly ground black pepper
1tsp toasted sesame oil
1tbsp rice wine, fino or Amontillado sherry
1tbsp traditionally brewed Japanese soy sauce

Slice the beef into thin strips, and marinate for at least 30 minutes in the above ingredients.

1 green chilli, split, seeded and roughly chopped
4 cloves garlic, peeled and roughly chopped
1 mild onion, peeled and roughly chopped
200g vegetables, prepared weight (see recipe)
100g beansprouts, blanched
1-2tbsp soy sauce (as above)
1 packet rice noodles
To garnish: spring onions and red chillies

Pound the chilli, garlic and onion to a paste, and put them in a non-stick wok or frying pan.

Fry the paste until light brown. Stir in the beef, and fry for 2-3 minutes, then add 200g mixed vegetables (such as beans, cucumber or courgettes, cut into small pieces or strips) and 100g blanched beansprouts. Cook for a further two

THE PERFECT SPANISH OMELETTE

EGGS AND potatoes are all that you need for this substantial dish.

INGREDIENTS: For a six-egg omelette, as well as the eggs, you will need one large potato, peeled and diced, and a little olive oil for frying. Use a small, heavy frying pan, non-stick or well seasoned, about 20cm in diameter, to give the characteristic thick cake shape.

METHOD: You can cook the potatoes completely in the frying pan - which requires attention to ensure that they cook thoroughly but do not burn - or you can par-boil them and golden brown. Beat the eggs and pour them on to the potatoes. As the eggs begin to set, draw the edges of the omelette to the centre and let the uncooked egg slide underneath. Do not have the heat too high or the underside will burn before the eggs set. Once the omelette starts to firm up, draw the edges towards the middle to give a neat finish to the tortilla. Put a plate over the pan, flip it upside down and catch the omelette on the plate. Wipe out the pan and put it back on the heat with a little more oil. Slide the omelette back in the pan, cooked side uppermost, and finish cooking for a minute or two. Ensure it is well-set before serving.

SERVE as a starter or as part of a buffet. Alternatively, cut it into squares, spiked with a cocktail stick, and serve as a tapa to accompany a copious of chilled fino sherry. It tastes best served warm and freshly cooked.

Next week: *The perfect guacamole*

Buttered dates
Serves 6 to 8
400g whole dates, stoned
225g unsalted butter
1tbsp rosewater or orange flower-water
150g flour, sifted
2tsp ground cinnamon
Icing sugar

Arrange the dates in a round shallow dish. Melt the butter until it sizzles and add the flour, flower-water and cinnamon. Cook for five minutes, then pour the sauce over the dates and, when cool, sift generously with icing sugar.

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Next week: *Football food with a difference*



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THE TIMES WEEKEND

Par

JANE MACQUITY

100

BEST SUMMER WINE

Jane MacQuitty the best low-price white and sweet

WHITES

Football White Wine de Pays du Jardin de la France, France

FRIZZ

1997 Young Vatted Tempranillo, Bodega Centro Espanolas, Spain

Spain's last day of harvest. La Mancha is the heart of the country and was home to famous romancers. White wine is not so great here. The best red grape is the Sifera. The wine delivers the dark purple red and deep earthy spice reminiscent of the past, overlaid with the plummy, vibrant, juicy fruit of a typical young vatted wine. This Spanish bottle is most definitely worth a try.

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Part 1: 20 wines for under £3.50

JANE MACQUITY
100
BEST SUMMER WINES

Jane MacQuitty picks the best low-price red, white and sweet wines

WHITES



Football White. Vin de Pays du Jardin de la France, France

Victoria Wine, £3.99 or three for £10

If you and yours want to carry football mania through to the contents of your glass, this is what you should be drinking. The rest of the World Cup wines are rubbish but at least this country wine from the Loire region has lots of green, zesty, floral style reminiscent of celery and green beans, with an intriguing powerful frangipane finish. It sneaks into this price band on the three bottle, multi-buy deal.

1997 Penfolds Rawson's Retreat, Bin 202 Riesling, Australia

Co-Op, £3.49 until June 28; Safeway, Waitrose, Oddbins and Thresher, £3.99

If you have never tasted a top-drawer Australian riesling before, now is the time to start. This '97, sourced from South Australia's prime Eden Valley and Adelaide Hills region's grapes, is even better than the previous year's. I loved its zesty lemon-curd and lime-peel rich fruit. Try it with spicy barbecue fodder and stir-fries, fishy salads, or chilled as an aperitif.

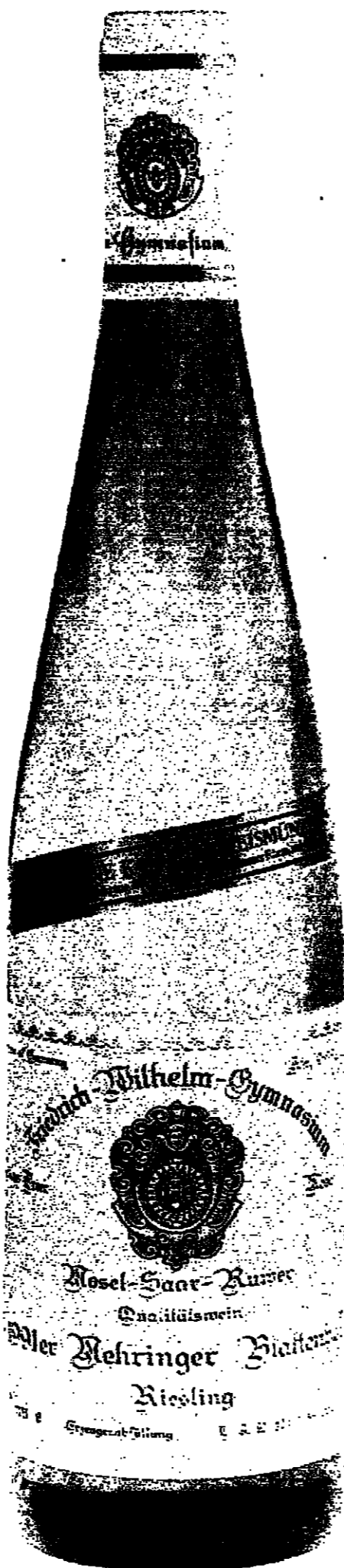
FIZZ



DW Chenin Blanc Brut, Premium Patriotic, Australia

Majestic Wine, £3.39 each for 12, otherwise £3.99

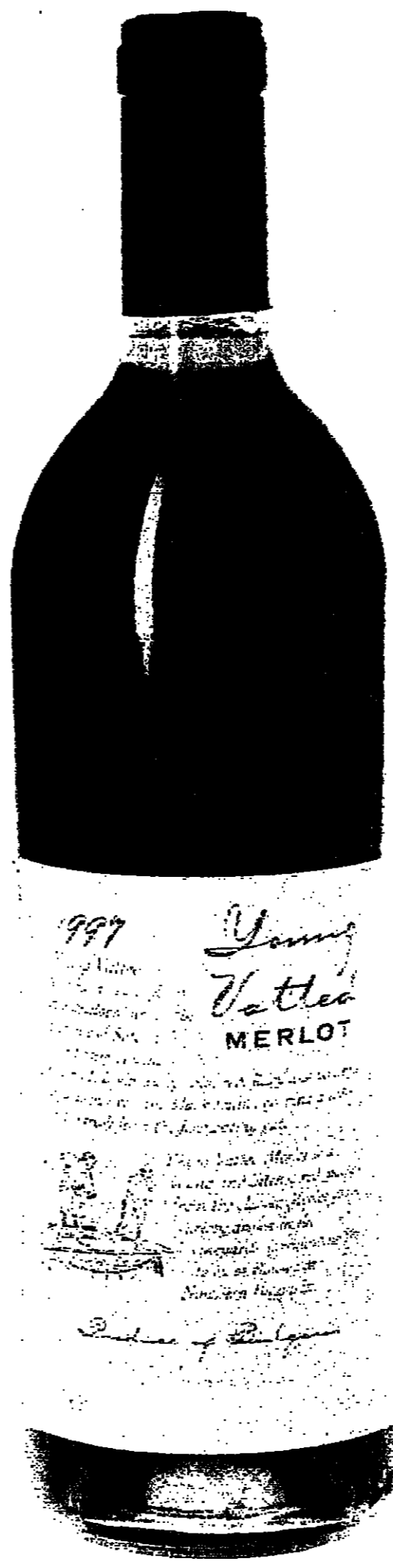
You will have to buy a case of this fine Australian fizz to slip in under the £3.50 net but I don't think this will be a hardship for summer swiggers. Australia continues to be a prime and popular source of cheap, easy fruit-driven sparklers and this is a keenly priced example. Despite the dull label, you can expect a ripe, biscuity, greeny-gold, mouthful, with a rich, lime-juice-stashed finish.



STAR WHITE

1991 Mehlinger Blattenberg Riesling, F. W. Gymnasium, Germany (limited quantity), Majestic, £3.99, two for £3.49 each

Karl Marx's old school, the Friedrich Wilhelm Gymnasium, founded by Jesuits in 1563, still has a reputation for producing some of the finest single, steep sun-trap vineyard mosels in Germany. If sugar-water liebframlich has put you off Teutonic wines for life, do give the Germans a second chance with this glorious riesling that has been aged and fermented in wooden casks. Once tasted, this sensational summer bottle, with petrol and even marzipan flavours on the finish, will have you smitten for life.



STAR RED

1997 Young Vatted Merlot Vinprom Rousse, Bulgaria

Safeway, £3.49

Safeway first launched its young vatted reds five years ago and this Bulgar, one of the original pair, continues to be the best of the bunch, even though the range has expanded to five. What all these fruity reds have in common is that they are single varietal reds that have not been fermented or aged in oak. They display the light, lively, carbonic maceration style of a good beajoulais. This merlot, with oodles of sweet, crunchy black and red summer fruits, is like liquid summer pudding in a glass.



1996 Le Livet, Vin de Pays du Gers, France

Sainsbury's, £3.49

This older '96 Gascon white displays some satisfactory aged characteristics with a fine, ripe, nutty, verdant finish. Try it with white meat and white fish-based salads.

1997 Colombar Sauvignon, Vin de Pays du Comté Tolosan, France

Waitrose, £3.49

This two-thirds flowery colombar to one-third zesty sauvignon blend is summer in a glass. Serve it as an aromatic mouthwatering aperitif.

1997 Hardys Stamp of Australia Riesling Gewürztraminer

Victoria Wine, £3.49; Wine Cellar, £3.99; Asda and Fullers, £4.49

Every spicy mixed summer buffet needs a light, medium-dry white. Try this softly sweet, peachy, spicy white whose lychee and rose-scented finish is a dream.

1997 Hardys Banrock Station Chenin Blanc Semillon Chardonnay, Australia

Somerfield, £3.49 (£3.99 from Tuesday); Sainsbury's and Safeway, £3.99

A clever, soft, spicy, apple-curry blend of a trio of fruity, perfumed Aussie white grapes.



Via de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne, Groupement de Producteurs Vignoble de Gascogne, France

Sainsbury's, £2.99

This gloriously fresh, zesty, lemony southwest French white is so juicy verdant, why pay more for the supposedly superior £3.49 version?

atypical but delicious curussy style reminiscent of the New World.

1996 Sauvignon Blanc, Reka Valley, Tok Region, Hungary

Tesco, £2.99 June 24-July 21, then £3.49

A classically good sauvignon. Has a verdant pizzazz and an intense green-bean flavour that reminded me of a good Kiwi sauvignon.

1996 Chardonnay, Buda Region, Neszmely Winery, Hungary

Safeway, £2.79 until July 18, then £3.29

This punchy 12-per-cent-alcohol Hungarian white is astonishingly lively, mouthwatering and lime-licked. It is from an area to the west of Budapest and oozes with an

1996 The Gyöngyös Estate Chardonnay, Hungary

Co-Op, £2.99 until June 28, then £3.69; Tesco, £3.69

A wonderful, rich, ripe, creamy wine that is summer '98's finest, cheapest chardonnay.

REDS



1997 Young Vatted Syrah, Vin de Pays de Vaucluse, Celler de Marrenon, France

Safeway, £3.49

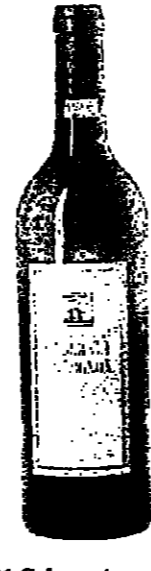
Unlike our Bulgarian Young Vatted Merlot star red from Safeway, this Rhône satellite red from a region that lies east of Avignon has a stylish eye-catching label. Equally, unlike the merlot, this big, fat, peppery, chunky red with the bold syrah fruit and spicy, velvety finish qualities so beloved of Rhône fans, is at its best with food. Try it with garlicky summer charcuterie and blue cheeses for a summer treat.



1996 Domaine des Bois du Garn Côtes du Vivarais, Vignerons Ardéchois, France

Majestic, £3.99, buy two for £3.49 each

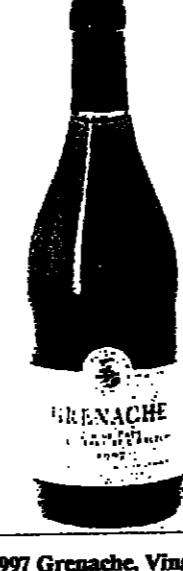
A decent Rhône satellite appellation like the Côtes du Vivarais, to the northwest of Avignon, really does produce the goods, given the combination of a top year and top red Rhône grapes such as grenache and syrah. Typically warm, rich and spicy, with lots of hefty plum and tar flavours on the palate, this '96 will be at its best served with grilled red meats, especially barbecued food.



1996 Cabernet Sauvignon, Vin de Pays d'Oc, Caroline de Beaulieu, France

Sainsbury's, down £1 to £2.99 until June 24

This brilliant, blackcurrant, briary cabernet from the stony, chalky, clay soils of Limoux, 15 miles southwest of Carcassonne, comes from Caroline de Beaulieu's cellars. Encouragingly, it delivers the kind of ripe, deep, chocolatey fruit that is reminiscent of a good Right Bank petits châteaux claret. As such, it is just the ticket to serve with a plate of cold red meats and strong cheeses.



1997 Grenache, Vins de Pays des Coteaux de L'Ardèche, Vignerons Ardéchois, France

Victoria Wine, £3.49

Yet another great red from the Ardèche co-operative, this time a 100 per cent grenache from the right bank of the Rhône, halfway between Lyons and Mar-seilles. Once again, this Rhône satellite red shares the big Rhône guns. Its appealingly ripe, earthy, peppery fruit turns into a moreish velvety summer red mouthful, served alongside hearty summer charcuterie or roast red meats.

1997 Young Vatted Tempranillo, Bodegas Centro Espanolas, Spain

Safeway, £3.49

Spain's vast dry plain of La Mancha in the centre of the country was once home to jammy sun-burnt whites and reds of no great merit. Times change and Spain's finest red grape, given the Safeway treatment, delivers the dark purple red and deep earthy spice reminiscent of the past, overlaid with the plummy, vibrant, juicy fruit of a typical young vatted wine. This splendid bottle is most definitely worth a try.



Bordeaux Ginetet, France

Sainsbury's, £2.89

More great reds are produced per square foot of vineyard in Bordeaux, in southwest France, than anywhere else in the world. But you do have to pay for the privilege. No matter, this summer Ginetet has come to the impoverished claret drinker's rescue with this splendid, ripe, fruit-charged new wave bottle. What you get here is all the blackcurrant austerity so beloved by the conservative claret drinker but underpinned by lots of vibrant juicy fruit.



Corbières

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FRANCE
1868

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CHAMPAGNE SANS FORMALITÉ



STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS

Q We have lost two 40-year-old cherries and a rowan tree to honey fungus. We have removed as much of the stumps as possible, but there are still many small roots left under the turf. Nearby laurels and holly have survived, but which species would be most suitable to fill the gaps left by these trees? — D.F. Lamballe, Middlesbrough.

A Planting into an area known to contain honey fungus is always a risk. Some people wait as long as ten years before replanting, but sometimes it is more important for the garden as a whole that you take the risk and try some new trees. The following are reckoned to show reasonable resistance to the fungus: *Ailanthus altissima*, *Acer negundo*, ash, bamboos, box, cotinus, elder, liquidambar, lime, mahonia, oak, rhus, robinia, tamarisk and yew.

Q I am turning a corner of my garden into a Japanese garden, and for a point of focus I would like to introduce a Japanese lantern. The genuine Japanese ones are made of stone and stand about 1.5m tall. Do you know where I could buy one? — J.C. Rose, London N13.

A Garden Heritage can supply carved granite lanterns in grey or rose. It has reproductions of about two dozen traditional Japanese styles of lantern, in various sizes, together with stepping stones, screens and other bamboo ware. Garden Heritage is at The Studio, Braxton Courtyard, Lymore Lane, Millford on Sea, Hampshire SO41 0TX (01590 644888).

Most major garden centres should also carry a small range of lanterns. They can be found in stone, concrete or terracotta. For a stone lantern about 1.5m high you can expect to pay up to £300.

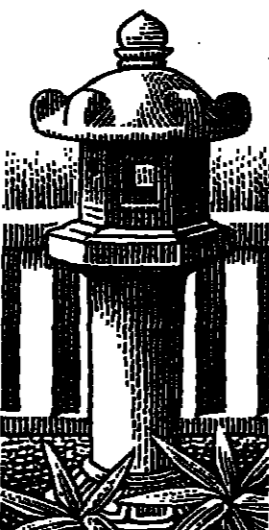


Q On several visits to Oregon we have been impressed by the dogwood trees. The climate there is similar to ours here in Norfolk, but we have not been able to find a dogwood to grow here. The species we are interested in is *Cornus kousa* var. *chinensis*, not the common species supplied by most nurseries. Is there a specialist nursery that could help? — J.G. Martini, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

A Ah, the nightmare of a common name! I guess your dogwood in Oregon is the native and widely cultivated *C. nuttallii*, the Pacific dogwood, which grows along the west coast of North America. *C. kousa* var. *chinensis* is a Chinese variant of the Japanese dogwood, with bigger flowers and more upright stems than the Japanese type. I

guess your "common" dogwood is not our native dogwood *C. sanguinea*, but the most commonly and most easily cultivated species *C. alba*, from Siberia and Korea. "Alba" means white, although this species is grown for its red winter bark.

To confuse matters, the US equivalent of *C. alba* is *C. stolonifera*, which the Americans call red-osier dogwood, but which we in Europe grow in its yellow-barked form, *Flaviramna*.



So *C. kousa* var. *chinensis* and *C. nuttallii* which you saw in Oregon would both grow in Norfolk. Neither species likes poor chalky soils, although *C. nuttallii* is reputed to enjoy gravelly soils. Both species are grown for those large white bracts surrounding the flowers, and which are not seen in the red or yellow-stemmed dogwoods. Ordinary garden soil will do well enough, and a position in good light and sun. Hot bright summers tend to produce the best crops of flowers the following year.

The big Norfolk retailers, such as Blooms of Bressingham and Notcutts in Norwich, have no stock at present, but expect to have them in the autumn. You could wait or order one by post, probably still for autumn delivery, from Burroose Nurseries, Gwensap, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 6BJ (01209 961112). It lists seven selected forms of *C. kousa* and three of *nuttallii*.

Q I have a long-term illness and bought a 5ft areca palm, *Chrysalidocarpus lutescens*, for my bedroom. After a week, brown tips appeared on the leaflets. I mist it daily and water sparingly. The room is about 19C, although colder when the window is open. — R. Niaz, Sale, Cheshire.

A The golden cane, or butterfly palm, is an uncommon species from Madagascar. In the wild it enjoys high humidity around forest and coastal waterways, which enables it to take more direct sun than most other species of *Chrysalidocarpus*. I expect your plant is simply finding conditions too dry, especially if it is close to a sunny window. It ought to be in a conservatory where you could damp down the atmosphere regularly with a hosepipe. A once-a-day misting does not really raise humidity significantly. Keep it in bright, indirect light, and you may find that new foliage made in its new conditions will not brown at the tips.

Write to Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures cannot be returned.



Rose Irving has recreated the Jamaican garden of her childhood at her house in north London. The shelves heave under the weight of cacti, ferns, begonias and Venus flytraps



Carla Carlisle in her "little patch of New Orleans"

"The influence of gardeners of modest means may become as profound as that of the Grand Tour"



Andreas Demetriou rekindles memories of Cyprus in his south London garden

Why transplants can work

Jane Owen reports on how gardeners born outside Britain are creating plots to remind them of their native homes

The archetypal English garden is not really English at all, having been shaped by plants and people from across the globe. Until the 1950s and 1960s, and the arrival of immigration and cheap travel, the cultivation of these new plants and ideas was the preserve of the rich and landed.

Most of England's grandest estates imported their inspiration: Melbourne Hall is said to have been influenced in part by the French; the 17th-century Westbury Court in Gloucestershire is essentially Dutch in style; Sezinguote has Mogul trappings; Biddulph takes its lead from China and Egypt; the Swiss gave us cottages, notably at Alton Towers; and the Japanese inspired many gardens across Scotland.

Today, gardeners of more modest means are introducing new plants and designs to their small gardens, and their influence may one day become

as profound as that of the Grand Tour.

In a Radio 4 series broadcast daily this week, Anna Pavord visited some of these new gardens created by first-generation immigrants to echo their places of birth.

In north London, Rose Irving has planted a piece of Jamaica, the island she left 30 years ago. It is as voluptuous as a jungle. The narrow strip at the back of her Victorian terrace house is planted with shelves heaving under the weight of cacti, ferns, tiger paw begonias and Venus flytraps while, overhead, a range

of petunias pour from baskets on poles and along arches.

When Mrs Irving was growing up in Jamaica, her family used to plant every inch of their land to produce food for home consumption — the only food they bought was flour, salt cod and rice. Now her green fingers have transplanted a little piece of the tropics to the gloom of London. Her grandson, who gardens beside her, can experience the garden of her childhood, where she would idle away the hours sitting under a mango tree waiting for a fruit to fall.

On the other side of London,



Farida Mukkadam's garden has a flavour of East Africa

of a Persian lilac (*Melia azedarach*) and a pomegranate flourish alongside discarded buckets, cooking oil cans and paint tins brimming with coriander, loquat, bay grown from the seed of a bay tree in Delhi, basil, rosemary, pansies, bougainvillea, honesty, sage, thyme and fig. Even the top of the dustbin is in bloom with tulips, poppies, petunias, carnations, snapdragons, iris and saxifrage.

This is the work of Andreas Demetriou, a Greek Cypriot who moved to Brixton when he was 18. His father had died when he was six months old and he says that, to him, his father was "a patch of well-cultivated earth at the cemetery in Cyprus", where he and his mother would spend hours tending the grave.

Some of the songs Mr Demetriou now sings as he tends his allotments and garden are filled with a melancholic longing for his sunny island. There are happy songs, too, and he reckons to have one for almost every plant in his concrete and brick garden. If it wasn't for the mass of containers, Mr Demetriou's garden would be barren — instead, it is awash with colour and greenery.

impressed the programme presenter, Ms Pavord, was Mr Maitreya's Zen garden in Nottinghamshire.

Ms Pavord has spent 20 years campaigning against leylandii, but in Mr Maitreya's garden these notoriously fast-growing trees have been trained into architectural beauties "like some sort of inverted mangrove tree", as Ms Pavord puts it. The rest of the shrubs and trees in Mr Maitreya's garden have been given the same traditional Japanese treatment so that even the lilac looks exotic.

The exception to the "small but influential" rule in the series is Carla Carlisle's Suffolk garden at Wyken Hall.

Lady Carlisle's unconventional tendencies have produced a sort of horticultural hybrid: on one hand, a quintessentially English garden and, on the other, a Mississippi Delta-style landscape. Among the details is a gate decorated with corn on the cob motifs.

There is an ersatz veranda in a Southern-style, punctuated with five blue rocking chairs. It is made from brick with espaliered apple trees making the veranda's "pillars". Chickens have been added to this scene — they are "lap chickens" which enjoy being petted as the Carlises sit on their rocking chairs.

The red, orange and yellow border that Lady Carlisle labels as "vulgar" is more in vogue — there are fritillaries, dahlias, tulips, red-foilage euphorbia, day lilies and red-hot poker. She calls it her little patch of New Orleans, just down the road from where she grew up.

I wonder just how long it will take for us to claim that little patch of New Orleans and all the other exotic gardens being cultivated in Britain today as our own.



Mr Maitreya contemplates the peacefulness of his Zen garden in Nottinghamshire



- Make successional sowings of beetroot, turnips and runner beans. Watch for slug damage to the young seedlings. Use beer traps and biological controls before chemical molluscicides.
- Sow parsley for late summer/autumn crops. Parsley is slow and erratic to germinate, so it may be simpler to buy a packet of seedlings and prick them out into a row.
- Keep strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries and currants well watered while the fruits are swelling and ripening.
- Potted indoor azaleas can now be planted outdoors in a half-shaded border. Water well after planting, in and around the pot, and remember not to let them dry out over the summer.
- Watch for mildew on susceptible ornamentals and spray, for example, acanthus, centaurea, Michaelmas daisies, honeysuckle and roses.
- Lift and divide clumps of bearded irises after flowering, replanting only the strongest rhizomes in a sunny position in newly enriched soil.
- Make leaf cuttings in shade of African violets, streptocarpus and *Begonia rex* using an open-textured compost.
- Prune brooms now (*Cytisus scoparius* varieties) to prevent them becoming thin and straggly.

Nights of wine and roses

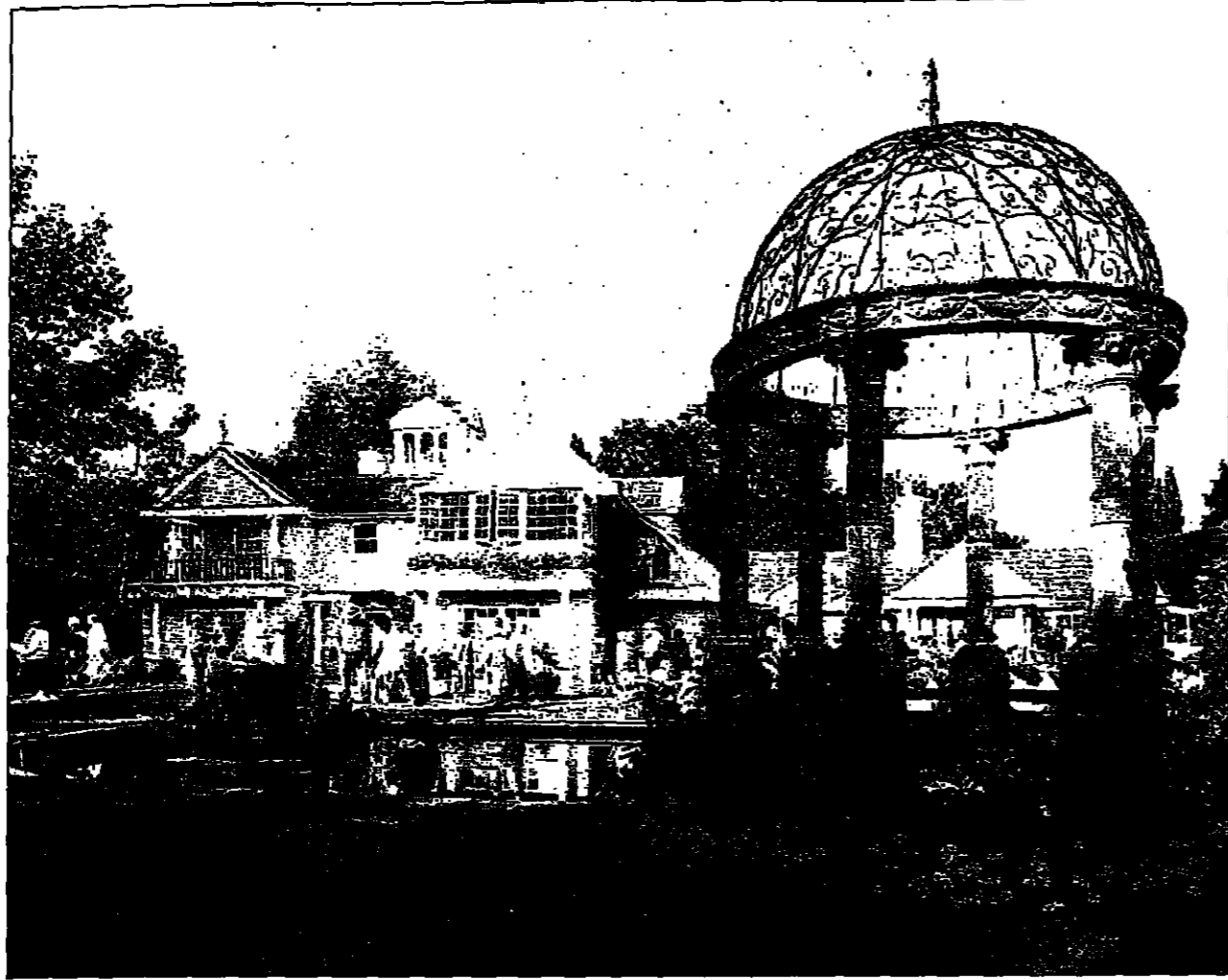
Evening is the perfect time to visit a garden says Stephen Anderton

This past Bank Holiday, I found myself garden visiting, courtesy of the National Gardens Scheme. I arrived at 4pm and left at 6pm — the last to go. The sun was shining, and the peaceful glow of evening was descending — the perfect time to arrive, not to leave.

Gardens have a particular magic in the evening. It comes from a mixture of low light, evening perfumes and our own end-of-day winding down.

It is an excellent time to open a garden, too. This year, the National Gardens Scheme is developing a whole programme of evening openings, a break from its traditional Sunday afternoons. Some of them are weekday evenings, too. What better balm for the commuter-soul than to spend an hour at the end of a warm summer's day looking around a new garden, maybe with the owners on hand to ask about their ideas and plants.

The National Gardens Scheme has got together with chocolatiers Elizabeth Shaw this year, to offer chocolates to visitors at 40 evening garden openings. Most of the gardens will have wine available, too. It all sounds very civilised. Some garden owners really go to town with evening

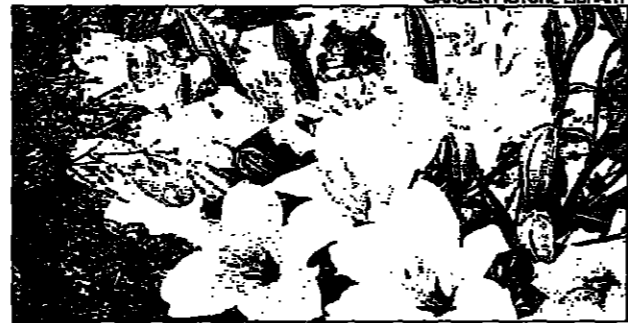


Visitors enjoy an evening opening with a distinctly garden-party atmosphere at Neptune House, in Sussex

openings. Robin Borwick, at Neptune House, Cummil, near Chichester, turns his evening openings into a garden party, with wine, posh-sausage barbecue or bring-your-own picnic, and live classical music. This year, there will be a box of Elizabeth Shaw chocolates to add to the feast.

Neptune House would seem to be rather an entertaining garden in many ways. "We always try to have something new for people to see," says Mr Borwick. "There's a marble Italian garden with lots of palms on what used to be a tennis court, and we are trying our hand at a Portakabin Ormeau. We always grow lots of *Nicotiana glauca*, too, because it smells so good in the evening."

Some plants compliment an evening opening perfectly, such as roses and *plata*. Another is a shrub called *Cestrum parqui*. It is not the



When you want heavy perfume choose regale lilies



Brugmansia suaveolens

hardest of plants, and often a bad winter will cut it to the ground. But by the height of summer it will be up again at chest level, with its clusters of creamy trumpets, wafting magic perfume in the air.

My neighbour has a common honeysuckle on our joint fence. In the evenings, its scent drifts across the garden on to my terrace, and I suspect I get far more of its perfume than

he does. By the terrace steps, I grow night-scented stocks, *Matthiola bicornis*, known to the children as "night-scented socks". Which is mean, as they have a wonderful smell.

When you want heavy perfume you cannot beat a trumpet: a few regale lilies will always entice summer nights. Bigger trumpets are found in *Brugmansia suaveolens* (formerly *Datura*),

Nothing else matches those huge, white trumpets with curled back lips, hanging like ghostly fruit bats in the dark.

At Neptune House, Cummil, Chichester, Sussex is open Saturday, August 1, 5-8pm, (01243 576900). A list of evening openings between May and August is available from The National Gardens Scheme, Hatchlands Park, East Clandon, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7RT, (01483 211535).



Modern touches blend well with Edwardian at ten-acre Doddington Place Gardens

Today's the day for Doddington

Doddington Place Gardens
Doddington nr Sittingbourne, Kent. 4m SE of Sittingbourne (01795 886101). The gardens are normally closed on Saturdays but today, for Times readers only, the gardens will be open 2pm-6pm for the normal entry price of £2.50.

There is an Edwardian atmosphere here. Although a great deal of work has been put into the ten-acre garden in the past decade, much of the original landscaping was carried out in the 19th century.

The Great Storm took out some trees, including a Blue Atlas cedar, but there are still many fine mature specimens in the renowned woodland garden, embellished by a two-storey Gothic folly, built last year by the owner, Richard Oldfield.

Another of his successes is an alley of *Sorbus aucuparia* "Beissneri" running up to a large urn and pond, backed by a pair of Irish yews and leading to a magnificent woodland beyond.

The large rock garden should be coming up to its best with helianthemum, dianthus, sempervivums, conifers, sedums, iris and cyclamen as well as walls draped with passion flowers, clematis and roses.

In the sunken garden, the penstemons are out and elsewhere alliums, peonies and old-fashioned roses and a Chilean fire bush (*Embothrium*) will be blooming.

Clock House
Coleshill (01793 762476). 4m W of Faringdon, Oxfordshire. Private visits by appointment. Open tomorrow 2pm-6pm for the National Gardens Scheme, £1.50. The layout of this garden, designed by Denny Andrews and Peter Fox, is based on the old house of Coleshill which burned down in the

GARDENS TO VISIT

Fifties. Perched on a gentle hill with exquisite views, the garden, like the ground plan of the house, is rectangular.

There is a tulip tree, a ginkgo and an ingenious system of arches made from steel reinforcing rods, intended for motorway building, making it considerably stronger than most pergolas.

Arches of conifers, beeches and golden hops lead from one garden room to another, each densely planted with many unusual specimens. Although the structure is formal, the garden is far from manicured. The vegetable garden, however, is weed free, and the glasshouses have a mass of vegetables.

The roses in the walled garden are in good shape and the pots in the courtyard garden are a lesson in originality.

Saltram House
Plymouth, Plymouth (01752 336546). 2m W of Plymouth. Open today 11am-4pm. £2. Otherwise Mon-Thur 12.30pm-5pm. Sun 11.30am-5pm until the end of September. £2.60.

Today this National Trust garden is holding a plant fair, a particular boon because it is not normally open on a Saturday.

Beyond the stalls, which will stock a wide variety of plants, is the 20-acre garden overlooking the estuary. It was created in the early 18th century by John and Lady Catherine Parker. In the 19th century unusual plants were brought into the landscape: Monterey and stone pines (*Pinus radiata* and *pinus*), *loquat*, *Olearia macrodonta* and *Drimys lanceolata*.

JANE OWEN



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The garden is my sanctuary

says the former PM. But as Jane Owen discovers, it's no place for rabbits seeking refuge

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"The garden is my sanctuary," says the former PM. But, as Jane Owen discovers, it's no place for rabbits seeking refuge

John Major set his heart on buying his Cambridgeshire home without having seen the inside of the house. It was the garden that convinced him that he and Norma had found their nest. And no, despite rumours to the contrary, they are not moving. Ever.

"Norma had already seen the house and, when she described it to me, I said we must look at it now. I drove up to the turning circle, saw the lines and the vast expanse of garden and could see the possibilities. We bought the house in 1983 with a double mortgage for six or seven months. It took every penny we had or could borrow and we have never regretted it," Mr Major says.

"It was the second best spot-purchase I ever made."

And the first?

"Norma."

There then follows an extraordinary revelation about Norma, opera buff and fragrant, erstwhile first lady, that causes Arabella Wharburton, Mr Major's aide and minder for this interview, to fling her head in her hands.

"When we moved here there were no fences and the rabbits were so numerous they would strip the bark off the trees. They were monsters and you would see generations of them frolicking on the lovely lawn. I didn't shoot them. Norma did, but she usually missed."

No more can be coaxed from Mr Major about his wife's shooting exploits, not even whether her victims found their way into the Majors' pot.

"Occasionally, an enterprising rabbit will break through the defences now, but it isn't very often," says Mr Major, whose two-acre Cambridgeshire garden is a no-go area for journalists. So we are talking gardens in Mr Major's Westminster office overlooking the Thames. I am faced by



John Major feeds koi carp in one of the ponds at his Huntingdon home. It was the two-acre garden that convinced him to buy the house in 1983

The Majors' happy hunting ground

ME AND MY GARDEN: JOHN MAJOR

the former Prime Minister in duplicate: in the flesh, across a large desk where he is scribbling notes and maps to explain the garden, and in oils to my right, in an almost life-size pose with Norma.

"The garden is my sanctuary. During my time as PM, I tended to go home to Huntingdon, not to Chequers. Mrs Thatcher used Chequers to live in every weekend, and I believe Tony Blair does. One of the first things I would do when I returned home was to walk round and check the garden to see what was growing: the snowdrops, the daffodils, the tulips, the blossom,"

says Mr Major, who spent the fateful morning of May 1, 1997 walking in his garden with Lord Archer.

"The Majors' 1930s house is surrounded by a stone terrace with a low stone wall in the middle of the plot.

It is not the most auspicious position for a garden. Apart from the plague of rabbits now kept at bay by brick walls and fences sunk a couple of feet into the ground — the soil is largely unsuitable for the heathers and rhododendrons Mr Major favours. Freezing winds are another problem.

"I am going to put in one of those revolving potting sheds

[this is Major-speak for a summer house] for storing loungers and for sitting in. Then I'll be able to look at different vistas at different times of the year," he says.

At the opposite end of the garden from the drive is a third of an acre of woodland — mostly whitebeam, hornbeam and poplar — planted by the Majors. "We renovated this area and planted the first shrubbery," says Mr Major of an area, beside the woods. "That was before 'The Great Tragedy' [the storm of 1937]. A huge Douglas fir once stood at

the end of the wooded area but, with nothing between us and Siberia, the winds took it."

The other "Great Tragedy" was a fungal attack which destroyed many of the blossom trees. But the Majors have already started to replace some of them as well as planting new apples, pears and plums at the end of the drive.

To the north of the house are two shrubberies with lilac, pyracantha, ceanothus, cotoneaster, forsythia and cornus. Around them and most of the rest of the garden are thousands of bulbs, mainly daffodils, tulips and hyacinths. A conservatory has been

added to the southeastern end of the house, overlooking the Majors' two ponds. It is a substantial room with sofas, a woodburning stove and a brick wall at one end lined with bookshelves that are overflowing with paperbacks and books on cricket and gardening. Indoor plants dot a wide shelf around the perimeter.

Mr Major's latest project is to build a third pond. The first, just down from the house, is 4ft deep, the second 3ft 6in and the third, which will be fed by a small waterfall from the second, will be 3ft deep with a large surface area for a display of specialist waterlilies.

Mr Major is adamant that he misses nothing about life at Number Ten.

"No. That was yesterday. There is no point in looking back. But there is still not enough time for the garden," Mr Major says.

"This is our home and we intend to stay. When people saw us buying a place in London they assumed we were selling the house in Cambridge-shire. I have no intention of moving. Too much of my life is invested here," he says, tapping on his sketch of the garden.



John and Norma miss nothing about life at Number 10



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Walls coated with old wills in the master bedroom

If it's No 19, it must be Suffolk

Interior designer Keith Skeel has put one of his collection of 19 houses up for sale.

Alex O'Connell feasts her eyes

Keith Skeel — the inspiration behind the interior design of super-chef Marco Pierre White's restaurants — looks and acts like a Carlton television cook-show host from the moment I arrive at The Hall, his neo-Regency home in Peasenhall, Suffolk.

He charms me with expansive gesticulations, some endearing asides and Cantona-esque philosophical soundbites.

Lesser entrepreneurs get their kicks from hoarding Russian dolls, first editions or scratch 'n' sniff stickers; Mr Skeel collects houses.

"I was counting them the



The Hall, a five-bedroom neo-Regency house set in five-and-a-half acres near Peasenhall, Suffolk, has been put on the market at £1 million. It took eight years to restore



Copper pots hang from the ceiling in the vast kitchen

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

other day," he says in the kitchen, ducking the hanging copper pots to scour the French cupboards for teabags. "I realised that I have 19." He has no idea how many bathrooms he owns. "Sometimes I do forget to buy toilet rolls," he says, "but mostly everything runs smoothly."

Mr Skeel spent two years deciding whether to sell The Hall and its neighbouring guest lodge for £1 million. He shows me around with the enthusiasm of a love-struck teenager introducing a sweetheart to his parents.

The five-bedroom "miniature big house", set in five-and-a-half acres, was built in 1860 by John Smyth, an English entrepreneur who made his money in steel. He used Suffolk white bricks and the iron from his foundries for balconies and trimmings.

For Mr Skeel, a modern-day entrepreneur, it was love at first sight. It was the peace of the village, the well-proportioned rooms and the easy access to London that encouraged him to buy it. The house had taken him two years to find and took about eight years to restore.

"I didn't work on this building for six months," he says, staring out through the French windows into the fields. "I wanted it to tell me what I wanted doing to it."

He admits that some people just have a talent for imposing their personality on a place. "Marco, for instance, knows to listen to a voice inside him,"



Keith Skeel relaxes by the carved 18th-century walnut fireplace in the sitting room



Keith Skeel relaxes by the carved 18th-century walnut fireplace in the sitting room

Mr Skeel says of the food king, "He is a fast learner when it comes to design."

Mr Skeel lives with his partner and has no children, but the house is usually pounding with the noise from nieces and friends' toddlers. The need for simple, practical materials was central to the restoration project.

The floor in the kitchen has been relaid with Suffolk stone. Put down in a deliberately

haphazard fashion, it looks as if it has been there forever.

Each room has a different atmosphere. While the family kitchen is huge and airy — Mr Skeel knocked three rooms into one — the sitting room at the front of the house has been paneled with 17th-century dark wood, and the carved 18th-century walnut fireplace and laden bookshelves encourage you to curl up and grow old with a pair of toasty

slippers, a loyal spaniel and a tipple before bedtime.

The drawing room, with three pairs of French windows opening on to the garden, is on the other side of the corridor. Sturdy Irish doors lead through to the dining room, which has hand-painted walls and a real candle candelabra.

Mr Skeel never entertains clients here. The long table is reserved for family and friends only. "It's a business



Marco Pierre White in The Oak Room, a Skeel redesign

relationship with all my clients," he says. "I'm basically just a tradesman and I think all my employers are aware of that, especially the British ones."

Mr Skeel finds his own projects far more demanding than his clients'. "With my own places I don't work to a budget and there isn't a time limit." Upstairs in the master bedroom he has coated the walls with old wills and indentures and then varnished them to create an original sepia shell.

"This is what I mean," he says, throwing his arms out. "I decorated this room three times because I just wasn't happy with it. Doing it for someone else, I wouldn't have had that luxury."

The grounds have delicate flowerbeds with patches where the plants have been allowed to overgrow, perfect for playing hide and seek. Mossy statues peep out of sprawling webs of ivy, and a folly from a nearby abbey is obscured by four walls and a ceiling of tangled growth.

Ordered chaos is something that Mr Skeel relishes.

"Most of the world looks like Marks & Spencer," Laura Ashley and airport duty-free shops," he says. "Many people are happy with that, but if you want something else it can be difficult."

With property in London, Cape Town and New York, I wonder whether he just ends up being dissatisfied wherever he is. "I am like a migrating bird," Mr Skeel says. "I prefer to be where I am whenever I am. A country walk can be as wonderful as a seaview, or walking along Broadway. The most important thing is to be happy when you are where you are."

Agents: Knight Frank International, 0171-629 8171



Mossy statues peep out of sprawling webs of ivy

SMART MOVES

Insiders have confirmed that Paula Yates is renting a four-bedroom house in Courtneil Street, London W2. She was said to have been looking for a family home for herself and her four daughters



Paula Yates

after the suicide of her partner, pop star Michael Hutchence. She recently discovered that her real father was the late show host Hughie Green.

Ten two- and three-bedroom flats at MP Bill Cash's former home near Leamington Spa, West Midlands, are for sale for



MP Bill Cash

between £109,500 and £195,000. Recently refurbished Walcott House was owned by the Cash family for nearly two centuries until 1975.

Nick Butler, the interior designer, is selling his Oxfordshire home — the Mill, in Whitchurch-on-Thames — for £1.25 million. It is said to have inspired Jerome K. Jerome, author of *Three Men in a Boat*, and it is the setting of an illustrated version of *Wind in the Willows*.

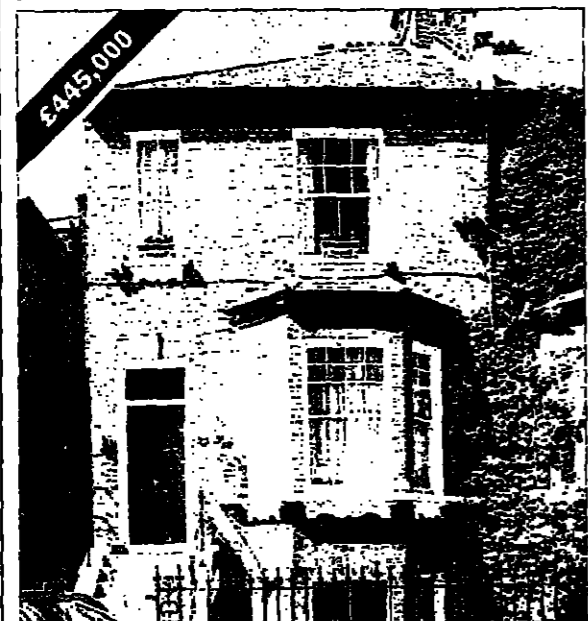
RACHEL KELLY

HOME SWAP

HOUSE PRICES in London's Battersea are levelling off. Three-bedroom flats in Victorian buildings overlooking Battersea Park are the exception, however. Demand for large flats in Prince of Wales Drive, costing about £450,000, has fuelled price gains of 20 per cent in the past six months.

House prices in Buckinghamshire went up 32 per cent in the past year, according to Land Registry figures. Cottages in villages on the edge of the Chiltern Hills, such as Little Hampden, are highly sought-after and priced from £200,000 for two bedrooms. Country houses with up to 25 acres start at £1.5 million. Prices slip 10-15 per cent between Chesham and Tring on the Hertfordshire border, an area considered to be undervalued.

The market for second homes on the north Norfolk coast remains buoyant. Terraced brick and flint cottages around Burnham Market, Brancaster Stathe, Cley-next-the-sea and Blakeney are in demand, priced from £85,000 for three bedrooms. A detached period cottage will fetch £135,000 plus. Period rectories with six-bedrooms and paddocks can be purchased from £350,000.



This three-storey, four-bedroom Victorian semi, with a rear split-level garden, in Warner Gardens, Battersea, will set you back £445,000 (John D. Wood, 0171-228 0174).



Shardoles is a ground-floor apartment in a Grade I listed stately home in 55 acres, near Old Amersham, (Buckinghamshire). It has a Robert Adam hall and two bedrooms, with ensuite baths (Knight Frank, 01494 675368).



Spend the same sort of money in north Norfolk for Thornfield Hall, a magnificent Grade II listed 18-bedroom mansion in 9.5 acres of garden, near Holt (FPDSavills, 01603 229229).

CHEYL TAYLOR

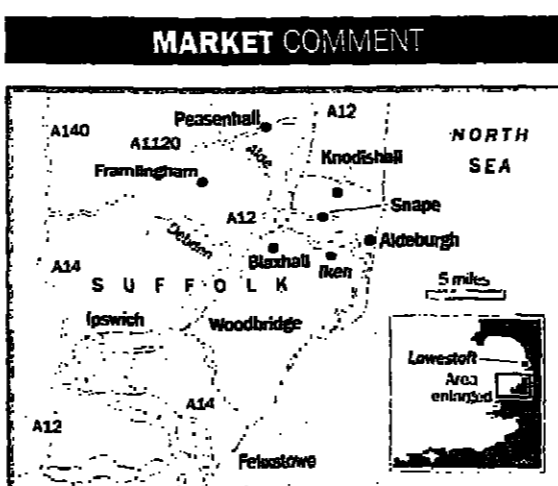
MARKET COMMENT

The two-hour commuting barrier kicks in as you meander through the country roads north of Ipswich. Getting to London from Peasenhall, for instance, means a 45-minute drive to Ipswich, from where the train to Liverpool Street can take 70 minutes. But the journey is manageable for weekly commuters who can work at home and limit their trips to London, and also for weekenders escaping from the metropolis.

Not surprisingly, the area attracts a lot of London-based money, drawn by the appealing combination of pretty, undulating countryside, the proximity of the coast and the relatively good value for money in comparison with property in the Home Counties.

According to Mike Simpson of Framlingham estate agents Clarke & Simpson, good value is particularly evident at the bottom of the range: semi-detached period cottages are priced up to about £95,000, although you could pay as little as £50,000. Mr Simpson recently sold a mid-terrace cottage in Blaxhall for around £60,000. "It was pretty small and the local market wouldn't pay that much, but second-homeers will," he says.

Such buyers know what they want, though: peace, seclusion, a pretty home



in a pretty setting, access to the sailing, golf and woodlands of the coastal area — and there's a marked premium on villages that fit the bill. Mr Simpson cites the example of a cottage in Snape (one of the most popular areas in which to buy) which is for sale at £70,000 but which would cost only £55,000 in the less aesthetically pleasing village of Knodishall, a few miles down the road.

Further up the price ladder, expect to pay at least £200,000 for a traditional Suffolk pink farmhouse; and rectories start at about £500,000. Edward Rook at

Knight Frank says that the level of competition for properties not blighted by road or air noise, with good land and well-proportioned rooms, can push sales up 20 per cent or more above the guide price. "If they are commutable, houses with eight bedrooms, 30 acres, outhouses, a swimming pool and a tennis court will fetch well beyond the £1 million mark," he says.

Woodbridge, eight miles from Ipswich, revels in the commutability factor, and has some of the highest-value property in East Suffolk as a consequence. Other popular spots include Snape, Blaxhall and Iken, says Mr Simpson. Aldeburgh, on the coast, "has its own micro-values," he says, because although it is relatively inaccessible to commuters, it is a thriving retirement centre.

Inland, the gently rolling countryside and pretty villages of the Deben and the Alde valleys also attract outside buyers. "It can be as much as 20 per cent cheaper to buy property as you move north of Framlingham," he says, "which is mainly a reflection of the distance and commuting time from London and the less interesting countryside."

FAITH GLASGOW

NORTH OF THE THAMES

MAIDENVALE

CHISWICK #14

MACA VALE

SWISS COTTAGE

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

WATFORD #1

CLAPHAM #1

SPRINGFIELD #1

CLAREMONT #1

NEAR TOWER BRIDGE AND CITY

ELLEN PARK #1

BELGRAVA

CITY & WEST END

NEAR TO SELF RIDGES

CLARENWELL #1

BRISTOL

0171 250 1012

NORTH OF THE THAMES

MARGARET, 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms... GOLDEN GARDENS, 4 bedrooms... NORTHWOOD, 3 bedrooms...

CITY & WEST END

BARBARAN, 3 bed 2 bath... CITY CENTRE, 2 bedrooms... WEST END, 3 bedrooms...

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

CHLSEA HARBOUR, 4 bedrooms... KENSINGTON, 3 bedrooms... CHELSEA, 2 bedrooms...

DORSET

CHERRIE, 3 bedrooms... DORSET, 2 bedrooms... SOUTH COAST, 4 bedrooms...

SUFFOLK

PERIOD SUFFOLK FARMHOUSE, 6 bedrooms... SUFFOLK, 3 bedrooms... EAST ANGLIA, 4 bedrooms...

YORKSHIRE

BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY HOME, 5 bedrooms... YORKSHIRE, 3 bedrooms... WEST YORKSHIRE, 4 bedrooms...

GREECE

PALAZZA EPIDAVROS, 3 bedrooms... ISLAND OF EVA, 2 bedrooms... GREECE, 4 bedrooms...

ITALY

TUSCANY, 3 bedrooms... ITALY, 4 bedrooms... TUSCANY, 5 bedrooms...

LONDON RENTALS

ST. JOHN'S WOOD, 2 bedrooms... LONDON RENTALS, 3 bedrooms... WEST END, 4 bedrooms...

A Modern Maisonette

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Modern interior... Close to transport...

DOCKLANDS

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Docklands location... Close to Canary Wharf...

GENUINE FORCED SALE, CHELSEA SW3

Grade II listed Freehold... Development opportunity... Chelsea location...

HAMPSHIRE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Hampshire location... Close to transport...

CHICHESTER

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Chichester location... Close to transport...

FRANCE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... France location... Close to transport...

PORTUGAL

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Portugal location... Close to transport...

PORTUGAL

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Portugal location... Close to transport...

SPAIN

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Spain location... Close to transport...

MAIDVALE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Maidvale location... Close to transport...

DOCKLANDS

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Docklands location... Close to transport...

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Knightsbridge location... Close to transport...

HAMPSHIRE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Hampshire location... Close to transport...

FRANCE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... France location... Close to transport...

FRANCE

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FRANCE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... France location... Close to transport...

FRANCE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... France location... Close to transport...

CHISWICK W4

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Chiswick location... Close to transport...

DOCKLANDS

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Docklands location... Close to transport...

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Knightsbridge location... Close to transport...

HAMPSHIRE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Hampshire location... Close to transport...

FRANCE

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FRANCE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... France location... Close to transport...

MAIDA VALE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Maida Vale location... Close to transport...

DOCKLANDS

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Docklands location... Close to transport...

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Knightsbridge location... Close to transport...

HAMPSHIRE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Hampshire location... Close to transport...

FRANCE

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3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... France location... Close to transport...

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3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... France location... Close to transport...

FRANCE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... France location... Close to transport...

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

BATTERSEA SW11, 3 bedrooms... SOUTH OF THE THAMES, 4 bedrooms...

DOCKLANDS

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Docklands location... Close to transport...

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Knightsbridge location... Close to transport...

HAMPSHIRE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Hampshire location... Close to transport...

FRANCE

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FRANCE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... France location... Close to transport...

BELGRAVIA

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Belgravia location... Close to transport...

DOCKLANDS

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Docklands location... Close to transport...

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Knightsbridge location... Close to transport...

HAMPSHIRE

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CITY & WEST END

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... City & West End location... Close to transport...

DOCKLANDS

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Docklands location... Close to transport...

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

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3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... France location... Close to transport...

FRANCE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... France location... Close to transport...

CLERKENWELL

8 New Apartments For Sale... Clerkenwell location... Close to transport...

DOCKLANDS

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Docklands location... Close to transport...

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Knightsbridge location... Close to transport...

HAMPSHIRE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... Hampshire location... Close to transport...

FRANCE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... France location... Close to transport...

FRANCE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... France location... Close to transport...

FRANCE

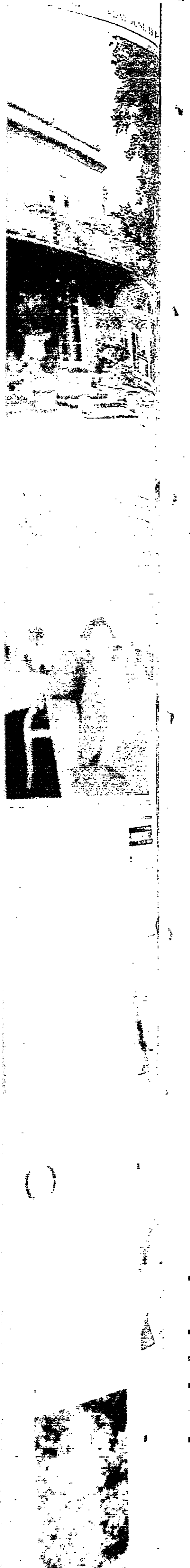
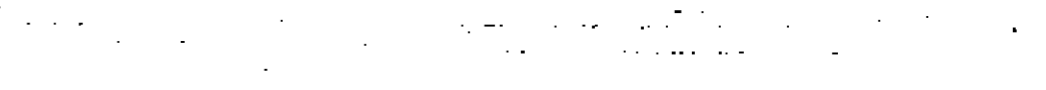
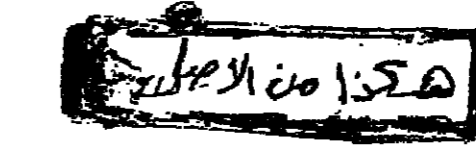
3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... France location... Close to transport...

FRANCE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... France location... Close to transport...

FRANCE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms... France location... Close to transport...



Advertisement for 'A rare appearance near Wigmore Hall' featuring 12 luxurious apartments for sale. Includes contact information for John Johnson and Smiths Gore.

Diary of a househunter

MONDAY
It is now two weeks since our offer of £108,000 was accepted on the three-bedroom house in Tooting, and we've heard nothing. Our solicitor is worried because the vendors' solicitors in Cheam have no headed paper and refuse to take calls.

TUESDAY
To move things along we speak to the vendors direct. This is something our solicitor can't do for some ethical reason. The vendors promise to get their people to speak to ours.

WEDNESDAY
We get some good news on the mortgage front.



Ten years of banking with NatWest has paid off and it has agreed to a 95 per cent mortgage. We go for a 6.75 per cent rate, fixed until May 31, 2005.

THURSDAY
The first bills arrive. One is for a reservation fee of £145 for the privilege of applying for a mortgage, the other for a valuation fee of £215.

FRIDAY
Our solicitor calls to say that the contracts from the vendors have arrived at last. But the inspection and valuation report from NatWest has valued the property at £100,000 not £108,000. On paper, we are £8,000 short of a home.

EMMA MAHONY
● Next week: appealing against the valuation

With a little help from your parents

We all love to offer advice to our children on buying a house. But is it worth taking, asks Rachel Kelly

Many parents find it hard to believe that their children can handle a chequebook, let alone buy a house on their own.

Take Hunter Davies, the author and Lakeland lover, who thinks his 25-year-old son, Davies Jr, a pupil barrister, is "dead clever, dead brilliant clever". Yet he cannot help telling his little boy how to handle estate agents, where to get a mortgage and what to say to his solicitor.

"He's househunting. But I simply can't believe he knows how it's done. In my mind, he is still back at primary school," he says.

But, in fact, the little darlings are now relying less and less on mummy and daddy. Figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders show that buyers are now older, and probably wiser, when they first step on the housing market ladder.

Burnt by a world of repossessions and negative equity during the housing slump in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the percentage of first-time buyers under the age of 25 fell from a peak of about 32 per cent in the mid-1980s to 23 per cent in 1996.

But parents can help — especially with the average £2,000 deposit and with providing independent financial advice.



The Jaggis, left, helped their daughters Anju and Anita buy a home by providing the deposit and advice on the best mortgage

used to live with her parents and now shares a two-bedroom flat with her sister, Anju, in West Hampstead. In part, she owes this to her father's mortgage advice and her parents' financial help.

"It was my sister who first saw the house and, after talking it through with our parents, we decided to make an offer," Anita says.

"Then we had to look at getting a mortgage. We saw a financial adviser and she suggested an endowment plan.

"But we went through everything with my father and he



said he preferred a repayment, which meant the policy would not mature, so we would not have to pay extra interest over 25 years. Our father's mortgage advice was very useful because he is more independent than a financial adviser who sells policies to gain commission."

Anita and Anju's parents also helped financially, by contributing the deposit and to the cost of mortgage advice.

"We could perhaps have afforded it ourselves but we would have had to look in a cheaper area. The repayments would also have been higher,

but with our parents' help they have become manageable and not such a huge burden."

Not all children accept advice with the grace their parents might desire. One can almost hear the exchange: "But Dad, Brixton is different now. Lots of my friends live there." "Yes, well, you know that's the one place we don't want you to live. What about Brondesbury Park? Or East Sheen?"

Editor Andrew Yates remembers his father's advice to get a survey when he bought his first flat. He didn't. When the roof leaked the he employed a neighbour to fix it. He, in turn, subcontracted the work, but it was never finished and somehow all the cash the fresh-faced Yates had paid upfront disappeared.

Parents most obviously can help their offspring when they are at university. Buying a house for their own son or daughter, then renting out the remaining rooms to other students not only gives their offspring a secure home, but makes sound financial sense.

"The most popular houses have two or three bedrooms,

accommodating not only their child but also tenants, from which owners can expect to receive about £60 a week," says a Halifax spokesman.

Ian Davies of Black Horse Agencies says having children at university acts as a catalyst for parents to invest in property. "A three-bedroom house in a good location can yield anything up to 10.5 per cent of the investment each year. This is better than current interest rates."

Few parents are as organised as Rupert Cordle, a property developer. Now the father of Alexander, five, and Hugo,

three, he has already bought a £200,000 flat for his eldest son. "It's for the moment when he wants to leave home. I don't want to have to suddenly find half a million pounds."

Mr Cordle is paying the mortgage on the property with the rental income and is now looking for a flat for Hugo through agents Douglas and Gordon. "A 15-year mortgage means that I will cover the interest costs, and the mortgage will be fully redeemed at the end of the period, when the boys are 18 and 20."

● Additional research by Dustin Hancock

WHAT TO DO

- Try to see your chosen location in all its different guises. A neighbourhood can seem very different at night, at weekends or during school holidays.
- Be wary of vacant land nearby. It might become the site for new housing or an industrial development.
- Look at the practicalities. How far are you from the nearest railway station, buses, shops, schools and health centres?
- Check that the property is safe. Badly insulated or poorly maintained heating boilers can produce poisonous gases. Check whether the property has been rewired in the past 15 years. Who did it and what condition is it in? There should be circuit breakers at the mains supply and enough electrical sockets to avoid trailing wires around.
- Ask to see the fuel bills. A well-insulated property will cost less to heat, but it must have good ventilation to prevent the damaging effects of condensation.
- Take account of daylight. West-facing windows have sunlight in the afternoon and evening. North-facing windows will not receive direct sunlight.

WHAT NOT TO DO

- Don't buy a house or a flat without seeking the advice of the professionals. A home buyers' report, which includes a condition report and a valuation fee, costs between £250 and £500. If you are buying an older house, a full structural survey is advisable.
- Don't buy a property that will attract crime. Check the position of porches, balconies and drainpipes as routes for burglars. Houses backing on to open ground, woods and footpaths all make it easier for thieves to break-in. Many insurers insist on extra locks.
- Don't buy a property in need of modernisation, otherwise you'll spend all your leisure time doing it up.
- Beware buying a converted flat if you are worried about noise. Problems can arise in some conversions with poor sound insulation.
- Don't buy a house with a large garden or you'll spend your weekends pulling up the weeds and mowing the lawn.
- Don't buy a flat without finding out about service charges and how they are assessed.

CHERYL TAYLOR

HAMPSHIRE - Headley Down Price Guide: £450,000
In a secluded position, a spacious house with a heated swimming pool and all weather tennis court with floodlights. 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom, utility room, conservatory, double garage, outbuildings and gardens of about 1.5 acres.
FARNHAM OFFICE: 01252 737115

SURREY - Seale Price Guide: £625,000
On the southern flank of the Hogs Back with distant countryside views, a spacious pre-war house with about 1.82 ha (4.5 acres), 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, cloakroom, separate WC, utility room, integral double garage, swimming pool, gardens and paddock.
FARNHAM OFFICE: 01252 737115

MARLOES ROAD, W8 Share of Freehold £375,000
On the top (fifth) floor of a period mansion block, a bright flat with far reaching westerly views. 2 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, reception room, kitchen, lift and portico. Joint Sole Agents
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SHERIFF ROAD, NW6 Freehold Price on Application
A spectacular house behind a Victorian facade, with an imaginatively converted and arranged interior remodelled by the architect Brian Muller, in the 1980's. 5 beds, 2 baths, shower room, double recep, kitchen, study area, cellar, garden. Joint Sole Agents
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NORTH TERRACE, SW2
Purchase of the freehold agreed and Lease to 2025.
A charming house close to Knightsbridge, having light well proportioned rooms and a south-facing garden.
3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 receptions, kitchen and study area.
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Joint Sole Agents
FRIEND & FALCKE 0171 581 5022 and JOHN D WOOD & CO 0171 352 1484

GLOUCESTERSHIRE - Frampton Mansell Price Guide: £425,000
In an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a house with equestrian facilities, on the edge of a popular village. 4 beds, 2 baths, 2 recep, potential 5th bed/bath, workrm/recep, yard with 5 loose boxes, tackrm, haystore, stream, 2 barns, menage grounds & pasture. About 12.5 acres.
CIRENCESTER OFFICE: 01285 642244

HAMPSHIRE - Calshot Price Guide: £475,000
An attractively refurbished house with panoramic views of the Solent. 4 bedrooms, bathroom, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom, conservatory, 2 porches, outbuildings, garden and grounds. About 0.77 acres.
LYMINGTON OFFICE: 01590 677233

LYFORD ROAD, SW18 Freehold £925,000
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Sculptures to remember

Lucinda Lambton decries the sterility of modern memorials but applauds an exhibition of this 'lost' art

Art should speak to us across centuries; it is a means by which we break bread with the dead. This quotation encapsulates the very essence and excellence of an exhibition, accompanied by an elegant book called *The Art of Remembering*. The exceptional array of modern memorials is on display at Blickling Hall in Norfolk.

To see the innovative dignity of their design and lettering is cataclysmic. Enraged, you realise the full extent of the wretchedness — I would go so far as to say wickedness — of most memorial design today. Enlightened, you realise there is a chance of putting such a gravely important issue to rights. If we have an ounce of wisdom, we should relish the message of these memorials and take it up as a battle cry into the millennium.

Commemorative designs of the past stirringly reflected the spirit of their age. How in heaven's name shall we be judged by today's sterile slumps, relieved only by gristly green marble chippings? Thanks to ecclesiastical bureaucratic regulations governing a memorial's precise design, or rather lack of it, many acres of Britain have been transformed into soullessly modernist cities in miniature. Democracy in life has become dictatorship in death, with all of us forced for eternity to lie beneath a Ceausescu-like regimentation of blighting blots on the landscape.

Until now that is. For the past ten years Harriet Frazer, who has been shining freedom into the modern churchyard with Memorials by Artists. She has established a nationwide service of putting the bereaved in touch with suitable craftsmen. Due to her advice and to her sleagging through diocesan boards and local councils in

pursuit of planning permission on our behalf, there are now many hundreds of contemporary memorials beautifying Britain.

For me, there are few places more enlightening than pre-20th-century graveyards and cemeteries. Whatever their situation, the moment you step into their hallowed ground you are in a wonderful world apart. Where else can you suddenly, and for free, find yourself in Elysian Fields, surrounded by the wildest flights of sculptural and architectural fancy?

How I marvelled at standing over the remains of Mrs Alexander, the author of the hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, which lie beneath a cross, in a multi-obelisk cemetery, rearing out of the industrial detritus of Derry. Her funeral had been attended by thousands who were "hushed and awestruck", according to the bishop, her husband, "with exquisite courtesy and refinement".

What delight it was, too, to discover that Sir Alfred Lewis Jones, who popularised the banana in Britain, was buried but a mile away from William Cross, who brought the first five gorilla into the country, both of them in magnificently and immaculately maintained cemeteries in the suburbs of Liverpool.

The sense of being in a spiritual world apart is satisfied even in the most picturesque village, where churchyards are the cultural oases of the county, steeping you in their past. No more excellent example could be enjoyed than standing over the bones of Kirkpatrick MacMillan, in a remote graveyard at Keir Mill in Dumfries. A long line of beech trees leads you to a tiny graveyard sloping down a hill into open countryside.



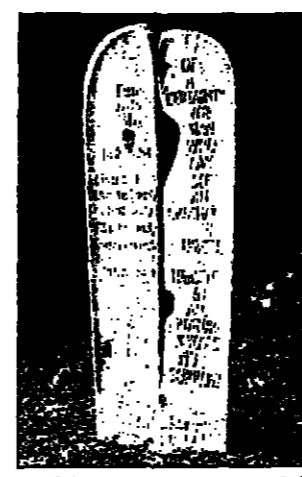
Full of famous names, Kensal Green cemetery in North London. Right: John Pitt's slate bench with text from T.S. Eliot

On one of the handsomely sized and lettered slabs you find his large family. After reading through 20 rows of MacMillans, there he is: "Also Kirkpatrick MacMillan, The Inventor of the Bicycle." Hallelujah! Macmillan lived and died a country blacksmith, leaving the refinements of his great invention to others. Thank God, though, for those five words, "The Inventor of the bicycle". They might have been denied him by the diocesan boards today.

In East Cowes on the Isle of Wight, John Nash, the architect, is buried beneath a superbly severe Graeco-Egyptian chest tomb, incised with a fine display of the calligrapher's art. Anne Bronfë lies beneath the carving of a

richly draped urn in Scarborough, while Henry Trengrouse, inventor of the marine "Rocket Apparatus", is buried beneath a great anchor in the churchyard of St Michael's at Helston in Cornwall.

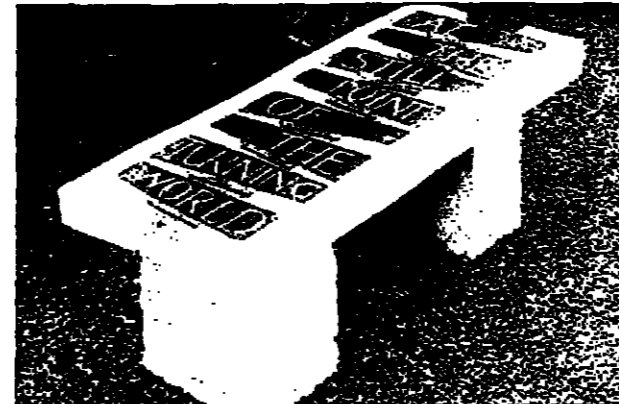
Occasionally, the memorial sleuth is hailed happily into the 20th century. Eric Gill and his disciples made the most innovative contributions, but there are other surprises. Billy Butlin's tomb on Jersey is a startlingly large, black marble "bed" incised with scenes of holiday camp life. Alison Unley, creator of *Little Grey Rabbit*, has a mouse sheltering under a clover on her stone. She lies in an enclave of 1970s memorials, enclosed in a graveyard designed by Sir Edward Maufe, architect of



Michael Rust cat memorial



John Neilson's slate monolith



John Pitt's slate bench with text from T.S. Eliot

Guilford Cathedral. Nowhere, though, is the importance of memorial art more persuasively shown than Kensal Green Cemetery in North West London, the first of the metropolitan cemeteries, laid out in 1833. While the architectural battle of Classical versus Gothic was raging throughout the country, a riot of styles was being relished at Kensal Green, all in the spirit of commemoration.

William Makepeace Thackeray is buried one way from his old school friend, the great illustrator John Leech. There are many thousands of such illustrious buried at Kensal Green, all of them recorded in splendour and all remembered and revered.

This new exhibition shows what can be done when the river of tears is allowed to flow freely, instead of being dammed up by bureaucracy. In the old days, memorials to the dead uplifted the souls of the living. We must pray that they are going to do so again.

The Art of Remembering, published by Carcanet Press, is available from Memorials by Artists, Snape Priory, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1SA, for £9.95 plus £1 p&p

"What I don't understand," said a non-Jewish friend the other day, "is why you Jews oppose mixed marriage. I admire Jews. I like their energy, their sense of humour, their moral passion. I respect Judaism. I laid the ethical foundations of our civilisation in the West. Why then do you seem so unwilling to share it with the rest of us? Why do you not encourage Jews to marry non-Jews?"

It was a good question. It deserved an honest answer.

The simple answer is that Judaism does welcome converts, but it does not actively seek them. Unlike Christianity and Islam, Judaism does not claim to embody a truth for all mankind. Jews do not believe that you have to be Jewish to find favour in the eyes of God.

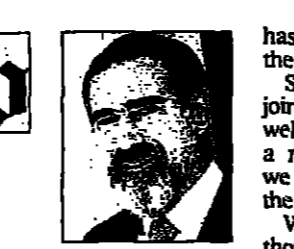
Of course we believe that there are universal standards of goodness and justice that are required. These were set out in the covenant God made with Noah, and thus with all

Judaism begins in the home of shared faith

Crede
JONATHAN SACKS

mankind, after the flood. But these principles — the sanctity of human life, the importance of justice, the avoidance of cruelty — define what it is to be human, not what it is to be Jewish.

Judaism — the covenant made with the Israelites at Mount Sinai after their years of slavery in Egypt — is a peculiarly demanding code of holiness. If Jews are spoken of in the Hebrew Bible as a "chosen people" it is not because they were regarded as superior to others. To the contrary, the picture the Bible paints of our ancestors is singularly unflattering.



Moses called them a stubborn, rebellious, quarrelsome people. Rather, they were chosen for extra responsibilities. They were told that they would have to carry a heavy burden of faithfulness to God. That, it seems to me, is a fair picture of what

is from our parents that we, as children, learn the language of Jewish spirituality until it becomes our mother tongue.

So we believe that if parents want to build a Jewish home, they must both share a Jewish faith. This has nothing to do with race. There are Jews of every race and colour and culture. It has nothing to do with classnessness. Jews have always tried to be part of, and contribute to, the wider society in which they are set. It is simply a matter of what it is to build a family around faith.

That is why in effect we say to a couple: if you care enough to pass a faith on to your children, then both of you should be prepared to live it and share it. For we owe it to our children to tell together the story of which we want them to be a part, and to live together the life we would wish them to lead.

Dr Jonathan Sacks is the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth

man preached with a passion and style I have rarely heard from within the walls of churches such as St Paul's.

A little more than 200 years ago, John Wesley, the co-founder of Methodism, declared: "The world is my parish" and "the horse is my pulpit". Mr Marcs might have been standing on a truck instead of sitting on a horse, but otherwise the message was the same.

Wesley used outdoor preaching to take the word of God to those parts of England that the traditional church was failing to reach, and these latter-day evangelists are trying to emulate his example.

"I want to give you an opportunity to link with Jesus," Mr Marcs said, at the end of a ten-minute sermon on healing. "I want to invite you, especially if you have knee problems, back problems, leg problems, to come to me. I believe God is ready to do a miracle right now."

No one moved, although I almost wished I did have a bad knee, leg or back so I could go up and make him feel better. Sadly, he did not mention tonsils.

"If you want to know more about Jesus, please come to speak to some of the Christians here," he said. Again, no one came forward.

Lunch hour was over. But as I left to return to work, it was clear from their intense expressions that, although the evangelists' singing had stopped, the praying would go on — even if it now had to be in silence because of a service inside St Paul's.

Giving faith an airing

City Outreach Roadshow, The Centre for Marketplace Theology, 37 Elm Road, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 3HB (0171-638 1728)

Church services for tomorrow

- Second Sunday of Trinity**
- ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M. Archangels in G; 3:15 Ch E & L. Word in C.
- BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:45 Cymun Bendigaid; 11 Ch Euch, Darke in E. Canon W Jones; 2:30 Gwynedd WRVS Jubilee service; 5 Gother.
- BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9:15 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Sumston in F. Canon D Lee; 4 Ch E. I was glad (Parry).
- BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:15 Ch M; 10:30 Euch, A: Almighty and everlasting God (Gilberts); Rev S Bassant; 4 Ch E. Canon Gallie.
- BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8; 11 Euch. Wood in C. Archdeacon B James; 3:30 E. Stanford in B flat.
- BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7:40 M; 8 HC; 10 BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7:40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd); Canon D Holt; 3:30 Ch E. St Paul's service (Howells).
- CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:30 M; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Walton); Rev Dr M J Chandler; 3:15, 6:30 E.
- CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7:45 M; 8 HC; 10:30 S Euch, Messe solennelle (Langlais); 3 E. Responses (Tallis).
- CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:30 Euch; 11:15 Ch M. Ireland in C. Canon D Knight; 3 Thanksgiving service; 6 Ch E.
- CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7:45 L; 8 HC; 10 Euch. Short service; 3:30 E. Purcell in G; 11:30 Secular service; 3:30 E. Purcell in G; 11:30 M; 11 S Euch, O quam gloriosum (Victoria); Very Rev C Camplin; 3:30 E.
- CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch, O quam gloriosum (Victoria); 3:30 Ch E.
- CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10:15 S Euch, Missa videlicet marcus natus (Astori); 6 E. Purcell in E minor; 8 HC; 10:15 S Euch, Messe basse (Pauré); Venerable P Robinson; 3 German Lutheran; 5 Ch E.
- DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11 S Euch, Schubert in G; 3:30 E. Ireland in F; 11:15 HC, Schubert in G; 3:30 E. A: Honor virtus et poestas (Tallis).
- ELY CATHEDRAL: 8:15 HC; 10:30 S Euch, Messe solennelle (Verdi); 2:15 Regimenial service; 3:45 E. Wesley in E.
- EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:45 S Euch, I was glad (Parry); 11:15 M; 3 E. A: Let all the world (Dyson); 6:30 ES. Canon A Mawson.
- GLoucester Cathedral: 8 HC; 10 M; 10:15 Euch, Missa papae; 11:15 HC; 3 E. strina; Canon N Chadwick; 12:15 HC; 3 E.
- GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:45 S Euch, Stanford in G & B. Rev Dr V S. Stophel; 11:30 M. Collegium regale (Howland); 6:30 ES. How lovely are thy dwellings (Brahms).
- HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Schubert in G; 11:30 M; 3:30 E. Norwich service (Paterson); Rev P Towner.
- LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10:30 Civic service; 11:45 HC; 4 Ch E, Sumston in G. Canon A Horton; 6:30 RSFA service.
- LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10:30 Civic service; Very Rev J T F Paterson; 3 British Legion service; 4 HC.
- MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8:45 M; 9 Euch; 10:30 S Euch, Missa sancti Johannis de Deo (Haydn); Bishop of Manchester; 8:30 E. Britten in E flat; Canon A Radcliffe.
- NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7:30 M; 8 HC; 9:30 S Euch, Mozart in B flat; 6 Ch E. A: Blessed city heavenly Salem (Bairdson).
- NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8; 9:15 Euch; 10:30 M. Gray in A; 6:30 E. Responses (Joly).
- NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7:30 MP; 8 HC; 9:15 S Euch; 11 Civic service; Britten in C; 3:30 EP; 2:30 Diocesan Festival.
- PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9:30 M; 10:30 Euch, Missa brevis (Mozart); 3 Ch E. Howells in B minor.
- PORSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:30 Euch, Mass of St Thomas (Thorne); Rev P Jones; 11 S Euch, Ubi caritas (Durufle); 6 E. Hymn to the Trinity (Tchikovsky).
- RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8; 9:30 (12:30 Euch); 5:30 E. Stanford in A. Canon M Glanville-Smith.
- ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:45 M. Stanford in B flat; 10:30 S Euch; Vaughan Williams in G minor; 3:15 E. Blair in B minor; 7 Concert.
- SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Vaughan Williams in G. Canon D Durston; 11:30 M; 6 Diocesan Festival.
- SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10:30 S Euch; 4 German Lutheran; 6:30 E. Stanford in G. Bishop of Sheffield.
- SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, Spazimezza (Mozart); 3 Ch E. Second service (Gilberts).
- SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7:30 M & L; 8 HC; 9:30 C; 11 Queen's birthday service; 3:15 E. A: Great is the Lord (Elgar).
- TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 M; 11 S Euch, Vaughan Williams; 6 E. Wood in D. Canon R Maynard.
- WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:15 A; 11 S Euch, Schubert in C. Canon R Gage; 6:30 E. Haywood in A flat.
- WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:45 S Euch, Coronation mass (Mozart); 11:30 M; 3 E. Dyson in F.
- WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M; 11:15 S Euch, Cantata Domini (Hassler); 3 E. Akosk in D. Rev M Lawrence; 5:45 organ recital; Alastair Sim; 6:30 ES. Canon A Harvey.
- WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7; 8; 9 Mass; 10:30 Sol Mass, O sacrum convivium (Messiaen); 12 Mass; 2:45 recital; Christopher Yonke; 3:30 Sol V & B. My beloved spake (Hudley); 5:31, 7 Mass.
- YORK MINSTER: 8; 8:45 HC; 10 S Euch, Darke in E; 11:30 M. Dyson in D; 4 E. Cheshire service (Moore); Canon Prof E Norman.
- ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL, Hertford: 8 HC; 9:30 Euch; 11 Sol Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd); 3 Magna Curia service; 6:30 E. Sumston in D.
- ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, Aberdeen: 8 HC; 10:15 S Euch, Jackson in G; ST Ch Ch Blair in B minor.
- ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Denbighshire: 8 HC; 11 Ch M. Very Rev K Goulstone; 3:30 Ch E. A: Where thou reignest (Schubert).
- ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL, Pembrokeshire: 8 HC; 9:30 Cymun Bendigaid; 11:15 Ch M; 6 Ch E. Like as the hart (Howells).
- ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Mozart in G; 11:30 Ch C. Darke; 6:30 Ch E. First Anthem (Morley).
- ST FIN BARRIS CATHEDRAL, Cork: 8 HC; 11:15 Ch Euch, Paris angelicus (Franck); 3:30 Ordination; 7 EP.
- ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southampton: 8 HC; 9:30 Ch E. First Anthem (Morley); 11:15 Ch Euch, Paris angelicus (Franck); 3:30 Ordination; 7 EP.
- ST GILES CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 11:30 HC; 10 HC, Missa videlicet (Victoria); 11:30 A: M: St Giles at Six; 8 ES.
- ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 M; 6; Rev D Hawthorne.
- ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 HC; 10:30 S Euch; 3:30 Ch E. First service (Sheppard).
- ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8:30 Euch; 11:15 S Euch, Darke in F; 3:15 Special service.
- ST PAULS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11:30 S Euch, A: Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bairdson); 3:15 E. Collegium regale (Howells); 5 organ recital; Paul Felton; 6 ES.
- RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, SW: 10:30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.
- ALL SAINTS, WI: 8 LM; 10:20 MP; 11 HM; Missa brevis (Kodaly); 5:15 LM; 6 E & B. Fifth service (Tomkins).
- ARMENIAN CATHEDRAL, SW: 9:30, 11:30 HC; 6:30 EP. Rev J Cook.
- CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M. Canon B Smith; 12:15 HC; 6 E. Rev D Bean.
- CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, WC2: 11:15, 6:30 HC, Rev S Hood.
- FARM STREET, WI: 8; 9:30 LM; 11 HM; Missa brevis (Gabrieli); 12:30 LM; 4:15 Mass; 6:15 LM.
- HOLY TRINITY, Slane, Street: 8:45 Euch; 11 S Euch, Schubert in G. Bishop M Marshall.
- THE ORATORY, SW7: 7; 8; 9; 10; 11 Mass; Missa vinum bonum (Lassus); 12:30 Mass; 3:30 V & B. Lauda Jerusalem (Vadana); 4:30, 7 Mass.
- ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH (Inverna Gardens), SW: Feast of Holy Eucharist.

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

Monet's Gardens

Two nights from only £84 per person

Readers of *The Times* are offered this superb two-night break to the Normandy region, staying in the three-star Chateau de la Corniche, set high above the Seine for £84 per person; the three-star Hotel La Haye le Comte set in a beautiful 12-acre park for £89 per person; or the four-star Chateau de Breccourt, surrounded by a moat and situated in secluded woodland for £144 per person, all on a room only basis. Each hotel has a superb restaurant and is about a 30-minute drive from Claude Monet's famous house and garden at Giverny.

During your relaxing stay visit the immaculately maintained gardens and house which give an insight into the great painter's vision. Monet was an enthusiastic gardener and planted his flowerbeds in a profusion of colour — which are maintained to their original design. The house with its pink, crushed brick facade, where Monet lived from 1883-1926, is still decorated in its unique colourful style.

Pricing is based on one car and two people sharing a twin/double room. Extra nights available for three-star £23-£25 per person, and four-star £55 per person — maximum four nights only. Offer valid until October 31, 1998. Leisure Direction Limited's full booking conditions apply.

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CHANGING TIMES

"School runs are tough: children springing about like monkeys, fighting and flinging ink pellets at the driver"

Workers shy of a minimum wage

If anyone looks groggy I make them sit up front — and hand them a bucket to throw up in." Frank is describing the pleasures of being a coach-driver and carrying drunken revellers back from night clubs in the early hours of the morning. A heavy, blond man, with the thick-lipped, sensual face of a Roman emperor, he sits at his kitchen table while his offspring race in and out. I talked to Frank because I wanted to know what effect a minimum wage might have on him. George Bain, the chairman of the Low Pay Commission, has just completed a report recommending to the Treasury that a minimum wage of £3.60 an hour be imposed from 1999 and Frank, like many people in the country, earns far less than this.

It is hard to calculate Frank's exact hourly rate because it varies. One of the coach companies he works for pays £25 a shift, and a shift can be as long as 15 hours, or just involve two school runs. Mind you, school runs can be tough: children enjoy springing about like monkeys, fighting and flinging ink

pellets at the driver's neck. "You're powerless if the kids misbehave," Frank says, clicking his knuckles thoughtfully. "You can't kick them off the coach, you can't give them a smack, you can't hardly even shout at them."

Luckily, there is a side to Frank which makes naughty children hesitate before pushing their luck. I'd call it hidden menace, but he thinks of it as "a nice, happy attitude". He is certainly content with his job. He regards it as easy, and came to coach-driving after being the harassed manager of a fleet of trucks: "When I chose coaches my stress factor went down to nil and my salary halved."

Having been in management himself he cannot see how country coach companies could possibly give their coach drivers as much as £3.60 an hour. Everyone wants cheap transport: "The only way to pay higher wages is to put the rates up, and then no one uses you."

The county certainly wouldn't pay more on its school contracts. Our business is suffering already because teachers teach all day and drive minibuses at night — we all know how safe that is."

Frank manages to support a large family on £150 a week because he qualifies for Family Credit, but not everyone on such a tiny wage is subsidised by the state. It seems that to undertake a truly horrible job you need a private income, like Mary. She is a divorcee in her fifties and took early retirement when her life was shattered by the death of a child. She lives alone

DOWN TO EARTH



LUCY PINNEY

with an anxious-looking alsatian, and because she has a small pension she does not qualify for state support. There is no way she can pay her bills without working, so she has become quite famous locally for all the odd jobs she takes: bar-maiding, baby-sitting, dog-walking, gardening. "I'll do anything," she says, "I'm not proud!"

but her main employment is egg-collecting, for which she is paid the shocking rate of £1.56 an hour.

The place where she works pays cash and her employers do not even know her name. She just turned up one day,

having heard about the vacancy from the village postman, and was hired on the spot. "The first time I went in the chicken sheds I wouldn't be able to stand it, but I hardly notice it now. The flies are bad, though. There's hundreds everywhere, and heaps dead on the floor."

She has to wheel a trolley through the free-ranging hens and pick up and sort their eggs into cracked, smashed, dirty and good. The good eggs are packed 30 on a tray, 12 trays to a trolley, and she gets 70p for filling each trolley which takes her just under half an hour.

It is disturbing meeting Mary because you cannot help becoming aware of a scrupulously concealed privation. If she cannot afford to buy a soft drink as a social occasion she will pretend she has forgotten to visit the cashpoint: when I called on her for a cup of tea, she had unaccountably run out of sugar and

biscuits. The only food in her bungalow — apart from dog meat — appeared to be eggs, and though she leads a vigorous, outdoor life, she has a worrying pallor.

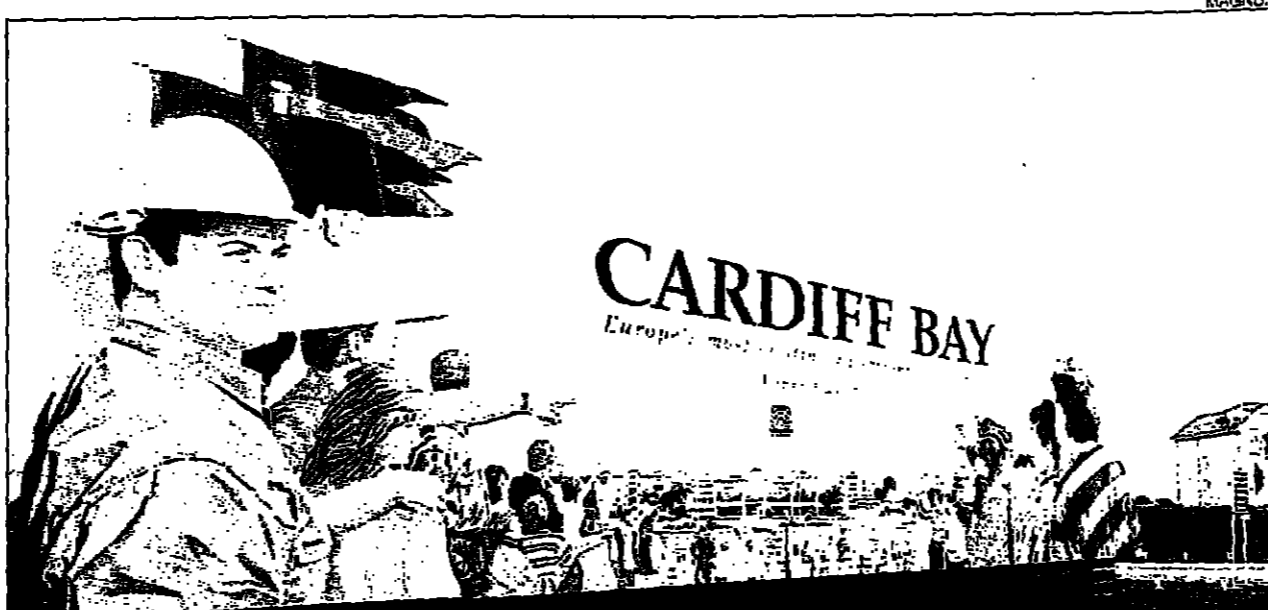
Like Frank, she cannot really see how a minimum wage would improve her life. She would earn an extra 10p an hour on the gardening that she does — but no one would pay more than £2 an hour for babysitting, or dog-walking, not with a huge pool of local teenagers to tap into. And she cannot imagine that the poultry farm where she works would ever triple its rates. "They'll just go on the black economy, won't they?"

Frank is in no doubt whose fault all this is. "It's people like you," he says, giving me a menacing smile. "You won't pay the full rate for the job and you want bargains." I find it easier to think that we live in a deeply unfair society, whose inequities demand more than a Low Pay Commission.

Still, at least ill-paid rural jobs have some compensations. Mary loves her hens and Frank feels the same about his older, female customers — the ones that tip, that is.

Capital gains are rural losses

The conspicuous new prosperity of Cardiff is sharply at odds with the rest of Wales. Alan Road reports



The city is buzzing with development; in the Cardiff Bay area Sir Rocco Forte is building a five-star flagship hotel

While Cardiff applies the last lick of ceremonial paint and dusts off the red carpet in preparation for next week's European Union summit, coachloads of Welsh farmers and their families will descend on the city tomorrow in order to draw attention to the plight of rural communities.

The meeting of 15 European leaders in the Welsh capital may be the culmination of the UK presidency, but farmers hope that their protest, organised jointly by the National Farmers' Union, the Farmers' Union of Wales and the Country Landowners' Association, will not go unremarked.

Protesters who gather at Cardiff Rugby club will be addressed not only by their union leaders, but by Lord Elis-Thomas, chairman of the Welsh Language Board, and the Rt Rev Ivor Rees, a former Bishop at St Davids — a clear sign that the seismic tremors currently racking the farming industry are sending shockwaves through the social and cultural life of the Principality.

If the former bishop is seeking an appropriate text for his address to the demonstrators assembled in the growing shadow of the £130 million sports stadium being constructed to host next year's Rugby World Cup, he need look no further than Matthew XXV 29: "For unto everyone that hath shall be given."

Certainly, his audience might be forgiven the slightest twinge of envy as they contemplate the face of Europe's youngest capital city. In recent years Cardiff has cornered not only the lion's share of public and private investment, but most of the Welsh dragon's portion as well. The term "capital gains" is taking on a new, and far from universally welcome, significance.

On their subsequent march through the city streets, demonstrators will be confronted on all sides by numerous examples of conspicuous spending, much at odds with the tokens of rural decline



Welsh farmers are finding the valleys not so green. This week, coachloads of families will descend on Cardiff to protest against rural decline

many will have left behind in their home communities.

According to Greg Byrne, Cardiff's director of economic development, a planned £600 million investment in tourism and leisure will create more than 4,000 jobs by the year 2002. Opposite the City Hall, where the European leaders are to meet, an old office block is being transformed into a five-star Hilton hotel.

Another five-star flagship being built by Sir Rocco Forte is under construction in the Cardiff Bay area which, with

several other hotels, will almost double the number of beds available in the capital.

If the demonstrators have the stomach for it, they could visit the city's £2.4 billion waterfront development which, according to the Welsh Development Agency, is turning the former dockland into the fastest growing area in Britain.

It was these docks, begun by the second Marquess of Bute in 1839, that transformed Cardiff from an insignificant coastal village with a popula-

tion of only 1,500 into the world's premier coal-exporting centre. Trade peaked in 1910, when 13.5 million tons of coal mined in the towering valleys to the north passed through this port.

A barrage to be completed this year will frustrate the River Taff's final journey to the sea and create a 300-acre freshwater lake and eight miles of expensive waterfront. It is here that the new £18 million Welsh Assembly building will rise.

The truth is that in recent years the historic national divide between the Welsh-speaking heartland of the north and the anglicised south has turned into a division between east and west.

Nowhere was this better demonstrated than at last September's cliff-hanging Assembly Referendum, when the counties bordering England — from Flintshire in the north to Monmouthshire in the south — voted No, while the west, with the exception of Pembrokeshire, always known as Little England Beyond Wales, voted in favour.

The anomaly was underlined by the fact that Cardiff, the community with the most to gain in material terms from yet another symbol of its supremacy, voted against. Swansea Labour MP Alan Williams likens what he calls "the megapolis", created by Cardiff and the prosperous south-east, to a black hole drawing into it all significant investment. "It is also sucking in skills from other areas, so



The inner harbour and Pier Head building

they are left with nothing to offer investors," he warns.

With employment in the vanishing traditional industries being replaced by poorly paid, part-time jobs in the retail distribution and leisure sector, even a once-prosperous city such as Swansea is collapsing on itself like a deflated balloon, he says.

Because of their dependence on the livestock industry the position of Welsh farmers is even worse than that of their competitors across Offa's Dyke. Brian Ratcliffe, who with his father farms a thousand acres in the heart of Pembrokeshire, is seriously considering calling it a day. "I never thought I'd hear myself saying that," he muses. Only the earnings of his wife, who teaches part-time in a local school, enables the family to hold on. "She earns more in

two-and-a-half days than I do in a 75-hour week."

The 30-year-old, who will be among tomorrow's demonstrators, calculates that combined falls in the price of cattle, milk and sheep over the past couple of years have cost the county's 1,800 farmers £40 million.

From past experience of pit closures it is known that when jobs go and shops, post offices and schools disappear, those with get-up-and-go do just that, often further eroding the Welsh language and culture.

By contrast, Cardiff is buzzing with activity, says Dafydd Wigley, Plaid Cymru MP for Caernarvon. "I would like to see the city pass on some of that prosperity," the former industrial economist says. His sentiments will be echoed throughout that other Wales, beyond the city,

Harriers are on the marsh once again

FEATHER REPORT

ONE OF the most magnificent summer sights in Britain is a male marsh harrier sweeping over the reed beds. It is a sight you can usually see from one of the hides at Minsmere in Suffolk, but now there is also a fair chance of finding a breeding pair of marsh harriers in a number of other counties along the east coast of England and Scotland.

The male marsh harrier is unmistakable. He has a rusty-brown head and body while his great, black-tipped wings have a broad bluish-grey band across them. His tail is also a blue-grey colour.

He glides over the tops of the reeds, his wings held in a V-shape, or he gives a few casual wing-flaps, before crashing down clumsily into the reeds — either to seize a moorhen chick or to join his mate by her well-concealed nest.

The male is also an acrobat, and if you are really lucky, you may see him displaying for his mate as she flies around him or sits in the reeds looking up.

He plummets, wings almost closed, then brakes fiercely and swoops up again. He may even do a head over heels in the air, or perform a complete revolution of his body around its axis as he flies forward. Sometimes he carries food for the female as he does this.

She is a nearly all-brown bird, with only a paler head and a pale line along the front of her wings.

Marsh harriers, although common across the British Isles 300 years ago, became extinct in 1899. Aided by man, they started a slow comeback in the Norfolk Broads in 1927, and now an article by Dr John Underhill-Day, in the June issue of *British Birds* magazine, reveals that their numbers are increasing.

There are probably about 200 breeding males this summer and, with the present rate of increase, there could be 750 nests by the year 2005. There are usually more nests than males because marsh harriers are frequently bigamous.

They usually nest in small reed beds in quiet, undisturbed tracts of East Anglia. Even more interestingly, they have also started nesting out in the middle of fields of winter wheat and oilseed rape. They were doing this in Spain

two decades ago, but a report on them in 1977 said that there was no sign of British marsh harriers following suit. Now, however, they have achieved that "flexibility".

The advantage, it seems, of breeding out in the springing wheat or the tangles of rape is that no other birds like doing that. Therefore foxes — the chief enemy of the marsh harrier — rarely prowl in the middle of fields, and, of course, very few humans are seen in the fields in early summer. In fact, until the crops are ripe, arable fields are among the most silent places in Britain these days.

Gliding low over the corn, as they do, the harriers can also be very inconspicuous.

Former nesting sites of the marsh harriers were mainly in nature reserves or on protected Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Nowadays, they may be able to avoid foxes, but are much more exposed to human interference, from egg collecting to poisoning.

As Dr Underhill-Day says, the future of the marsh harrier in Britain depends on the sympathy and concern of arable landowners and farmers. Birdwatchers can help to keep an eye on that.

DERWENT MAY

● What's about: *Birders* — Great crested grebe chicks may be seen riding on their parents' backs. *Twitichers* — Great white egret, Druridge Bay, Northumberland; Night heron at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire; Bee-eater at Pigwell Bay, Kent. *Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.*



The male marsh harrier

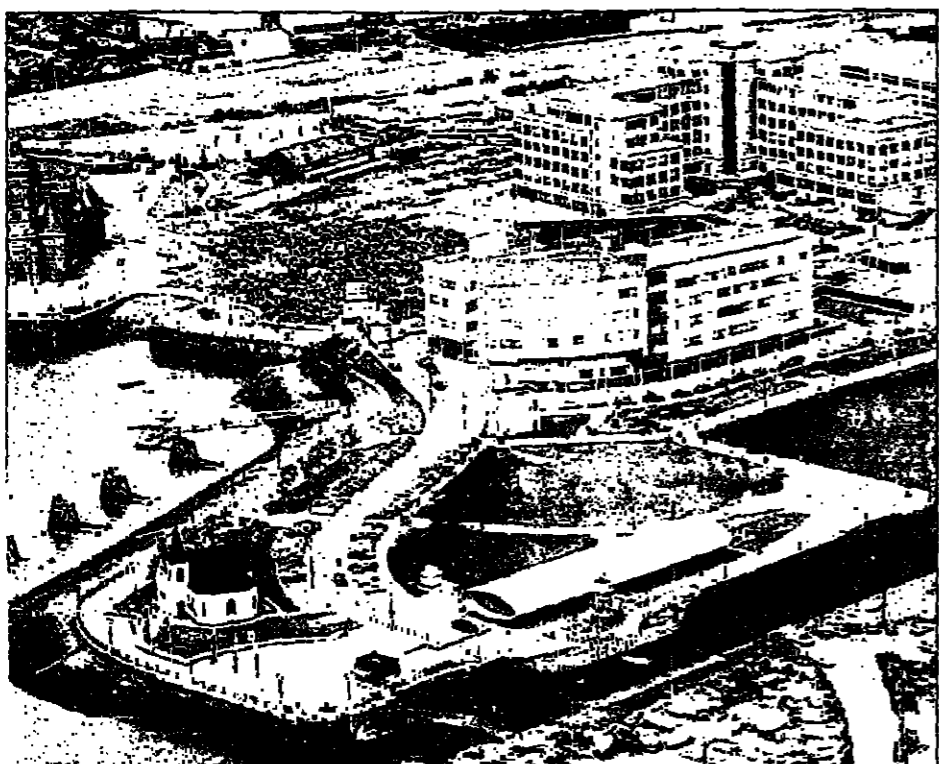
Living Countryside photo competition

YOUNG photographers with stunning or evocative pictures of the British countryside can win exciting prizes and see their work displayed at the Country Landowners' Association (CLA) Game Fair, to be held at Stratfield Saye House, in Hampshire, from July 23 to July 26.

In association with the CLA, *The Times* is offering prizes which include a Casio digital camera, a pair of Hunter Wellington boots and family tickets for the Game Fair, plus several runner-up prizes.

There are two categories: Under-18s and Under-14s. Entrants should be under the age limit on June 30, 1998. Entrants should send one photograph which epitomises the idea of "Our Beautiful British Countryside". Each photograph must be clearly labelled on the back with name, address, age, telephone number and a title of no more than 25 words.

Entries should be sent to: Fiona Eastman, CLA Game Fair, Polesley Farm, Dummer Road, Nutley, near Basingstoke, Hampshire RG25 2HU. The closing date for entries is June 30. *Times* competition rules apply. The winning photographs and other commended entries will be displayed at the Game Fair, which reserves all reproduction rights to entries.



The site of the £18 million Welsh Assembly building

A vertical sidebar containing various advertisements and puzzles. At the top is a crossword puzzle. Below it is an advertisement for "ADOPT" featuring a white dog. Further down is an advertisement for "SOLUTION TO BANK" with a grid of numbers. At the bottom is a small advertisement for a dog named "FIONA".

Speedy's life in the slow lane

PETS

It is a ritual that the neighbours of television presenter Sue Cook have become familiar with over the past year. Early in the morning and again at dusk, Miss Cook can be spotted bent double, peering under shrubs in her walled North London garden and calling out, "Speedy! Speedy!" Miss Cook is on tortoise patrol.

It is a time-consuming but necessary job, she explains. "I sometimes find him on his back, legs flailing, or stuck under a piece of fence. I have to know he's safe and happy before I go to work or to bed."

The former presenter of *Crimewatch UK* bought the Mediterranean Hermann's tortoise for Megan, her ten-year-old animal-loving daughter, a year ago. Like most of Britain's estimated 200,000 tortoise owners, she thought this would be an interesting, easy-to-care-for pet whose time would be spent perambulating the garden eating grass.

She was shocked to discover how much attention tortoises needed. "They really are high maintenance and a lot of work. In the beginning I was a neurotic wreck, sometimes near to tears, worrying how I was going to care for him properly."

Tortoises are an endangered species. Between the 1950s and early 1980s there was a flourishing trade in Hermann's and spur-thighed tortoises from Morocco, Yugoslavia and Greece. More than 90 per cent were dead on arrival, and imports to Britain were finally banned in 1984.

Jill Martin, sanctuary man-

Tortoises are high-maintenance but they last a lifetime, Sue Cook tells

Jill Todd

ager of the Tortoise Trust in Wales, says: "No reptile is an easy pet. They need heat, the right diet, suitable accommodation and fairly constant attention. With the right care, they can live up to 100 years."

The trust provides advice and information on care and carries out campaigns and research on behalf of endangered species in the wild. They also run a hospital providing help for hundreds of unwanted, sick or injured tortoises and turtles. Some have been damaged by lawnmowers or chewed by dogs.

A small captive-breeding programme exists to try to ensure that only a few breeds are sold. A baby tortoise costs between £50 and £120, and the trust recommends it should be at least one year old.

Speedy came from a North London pet shop and Megan chose him because he had a chip out of his shell where he had been hit by a lawnmower. "He has been aged by different vets at either four, ten or 25 years old," says Miss Cook.

"It's hard to get consistent information or to find a vet who has a special interest in tortoises. Every time Speedy



TV presenter Sue Cook hopes that Speedy, who may live to be 100, will be passed to her daughter and will one day play with her grandchildren

FACT FILE

□ The Tortoise Trust has a free advisory service. It can supply an introductory pack as well as care information booklets and videos. Send a stamped self-addressed envelope to: The Tortoise Trust, BM Tortoise, London WC1N 3XX. Tortoise Trust website: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/ttrust> e-mail: ttrust@compuserve.com □ The British Chelonia Group, Dr R. Avery, The School of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1UG, also has tortoise and turtle information.

Some owners want their tortoises to breed. That is not Speedy's fate, but it is possible. A success last summer was achieved by Hermann's tortoises Wimpe and Milbury, her mate, and filmed on BBC's *Rolf's Amazing World of Animals*. They produced six offspring at the Pearce family home in Chester, Wimpey, who is about 60 years old, laid seven eggs under a clematis bush, closely watched by a fascinated Debbie Pearce, her husband David and sons Wesley, ten, Jordan, nine, and Kyle, five.

"I put them in a casserole dish, lightly covered them with

'I was a neurotic wreck, at times near to tears, worrying how I was going to care for him'

sand from the children's sandpit and placed them in the airing cupboard. We were so excited. I was nearly crying," says Mrs Pearce.

This summer three will be sold. "But only to good homes," says Mrs Pearce firmly. "These are our babies. We couldn't bear it if anything happened to them."

Sue Cook agrees. "I love watching this extraordinary creature ambling across the grass. He'll probably outlive me, and Megan will inherit him."

"One day perhaps her children will play with him. I like the thought of that."



Debbie Pearce, her sons and "babies", bred in captivity in a casserole dish placed in an airing cupboard

needs a check-up we have to travel to Enfield."

Miss Cook contacted the Tortoise Trust for advice about equipment. Outdoor accommodation should be escape-proof and predator-proof. Ideal indoor accommodation would be a home-made pen with a heat lamp clipped to the side and a plywood base covered with plants, such as clover and dandelion, to form an indoor garden.

Speedy has the use of an indoor vivarium (a glass-fronted snake house) with a heat lamp and thermometer, a purpose-built garden house designed by his owner with ramp and solar panels (he refuses to use it), his own digital scales (he is weighed once a week to check he is eating enough) and a hibernating box.

He is a fussy eater and likes only grated carrot and expensive radish. "He turns his nose up at a Webb's Wonder or cos," says Miss Cook. "He even refuses to touch his special tortoise food pellets." The wrong diet can be a killer: cat and dog food can be fatal; bananas, bread and milk present a real danger to health. Another hazard is a build-up of bladder stones

caused by the drying effect of central heating.

Tortoises are often kept in the house at night by security-conscious owners. The high prices they can command have attracted rustlers, and whenever Sue Cook, her partner Billy MacQueen, son Charlie, 15, and Megan go on holiday,

they leave Speedy with a "tortoise sitter", a fellow enthusiast who lives a 40-mile round-trip away.

Hibernation causes owners the most problems. An underweight tortoise should never be hibernated. It will condemn it to certain death. Jill Martin says: "Hibernation periods in

this country are often dangerously long. Six weeks is quite enough for a very young tortoise, 20 weeks the most for an older one. We've heard of tortoises being left for more than six months. By then the animal is seriously depleted."

It is not uncommon for tortoises to suffer from ano-

rexia, although owners sometimes mistakenly believe their tortoises are anorexic because they refuse to eat, or because they move very slowly when coming out of hibernation, a sign that the creature is almost certainly too cold. Heat, in the form of a 60-watt light bulb, will "kickstart" it into life.

A VET WRITES

Q I found a lump on my black labrador's back last week. Within days it had grown to the size of a baked bean, so I took her to the vet. He said it was a tick, gave it a squirt from an aerosol and removed it. I was so relieved that I didn't ask him where Sadie had got it from. What are ticks, how do dogs get them and what can I do to stop her catching another?

A Ticks are blood-sucking insects with indiscriminate tastes. They feed from any warm-blooded animal — such as sheep, cattle, cats, dogs, birds and sometimes humans. Adult ticks lay eggs in rough grassland and heaths. When a young tick hatches it climbs up the grass and attaches itself to the first warm-blooded animal that comes along, burying its head in the skin to feed on blood. After a week or ten days, the engorged tick falls off on to the grass and moults. Then it finds another host and repeats the feeding cycle two more times. The fourth time around it is adult and ready to mate. Regular use of an insecticidal shampoo or one of the "pour-on" flea killers will kill ticks on arrival. If one does survive, squirt it with a flea-killing aerosol, or smother it in butter to kill it, and then it can be removed. Never try to pull off a live tick because its head may remain behind and cause an abscess.

Q How does a cat purr, and why?

A There's no generally accepted answer to the "How?" question. One notion is that the sound of blood passing through large veins in the chest is amplified in the windpipe. Another explanation involves air passing through the larynx, but as purring occurs while the cat is breathing in and out, that isn't convincing. As to "Why?", purring is usually an expression of contentment. Mother's purr acts as a homing signal to young kittens, leading them to safety before their eyes are open. It can also be defensive: seriously ill, frightened cats often purr loudly when they're on the examination table.

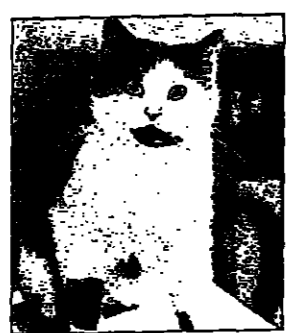
Q We have three guinea pigs. One of them suffers from a mite infestation, which has spread to the others. An injection of ivermectin cures it, but the infection recurs. Is there an alternative?

A There are a number of anti-parasitic shampoos which are lethal to the guinea pig mite *Trixacarus*, but the injection tends to be more effective.

Ask your vet about shampoo (use it to de-mite the cage as well as the your pets) and about having the three of them injected on the same day.

JAMES ALCOCK

ADOPT ME



Rodney can be playful

RODNEY is a four-year-old grey-and-white neutered male cat who was brought in to the Cats Protection League as a stray. He is an affectionate and playful cat, but can be shy with new people at first. He needs a loving home and lots of attention. If you would like to adopt Rodney, please contact the CPL Culcheth & Glazebury branch (01925 764604).

SOLUTION TO BANK HOLIDAY JUMBO 168

COFFEEBAR LOSEFACE ICEBERGS
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The six winners of £100 are: Mr P. Dudgeon of Dover, Kent; Mrs R. Jones of Whitland, Wales; Mr R.A. Parsons of Sheffield, South Yorkshire; Elizabeth Bond of Chesterfield, Derbyshire; D.M. Clemmon of Sandy, Bedfordshire; M.T. Call of Worthing, West Sussex

Lynne Greenwood reports on a Lake District village's fight against unsightly power cables

Residents plea to Save Our Scenery

William Wordsworth was reluctant to build a house in the Lake District village of Appletrewhaithe 150 years ago, because the newly built woollen mill ruined his view of the lake. He later relented and built "a seemly cottage", a house now known as the Ghyll.

Until this summer, the villagers of Appletrewhaithe have been complaining that their view was ruined by a different visual intrusion — the overhead lines delivering electricity and telecommunications to the picturesque village tucked in at the base of Skiddaw in the Lakeland fells.

Back in 1975, the parish council of Underskiddaw wrote to Norweb, its electricity supplier, now part of United Utilities, to ask if their overhead lines could be hidden underground. They were told that the village would be added to a priority list.

Four years ago, Gill Edmonds, who moved to the village from Surrey, unearthed the slim correspondence file — and began to fill it out.

This summer Norweb has been laying new underground cables throughout the National Park village, commemorated in the Wordsworth sonnet *At Appletrewhaithe*, near Keswick, so that 44 wooden poles and hundreds of metres of overhead low-voltage cable can be taken down.

The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT), which was awarded £4 million from the Millennium Commission for a variety of environmental improvement schemes throughout the national park, plans to spend a chunk of the cash on undergrounding projects in 20 villages. Richard Witt, director of the YDMT, says that the uniqueness of the Dales is spoiled by the visual pollution of overhead lines.

Langcliffe and Austwick, near Settle, traditional Dales villages with a mix of farmers, retired people and commuters, will be first on the list.

Their overhead wires will be removed later this year, at a cost to Norweb of £150,000 each. The trust will contribute £30,000 to each scheme.

Other priority villages for undergrounding schemes in the Dales National Park, which attracts 8 million visitors a year, fall within Yorkshire Electricity and Northern Electric's responsibilities.

Yorkshire Electricity (YE) has a three-year project for undergrounding schemes up and running. Work will start first on Hebden, Thorpe and Conistone, all near Grassington and Beamsley, near Bolton Abbey, at a cost of £200,000, to be shared equally by YE and the trust charity.

Tudor Townsend, managing director of YE Distribution, who heard Prince Charles express his delight at the schemes on his visit to the national park last month, says: "The removal of overhead lines in these Dales villages will greatly enhance their traditional appearance. In Beamsley, for example, there is a cat's cradle of lines running down the main street."



Villagers have persuaded power companies to hide their cables underground to save the Lake District's beauty

Richard Witt admits it is making little headway with them. "We desperately want an underground scheme at Aysgarth, one of the Dales' beauty spots, which Northern Electric says will cost £90,000. We are prepared to go 50/50 on the cost but it has asked us for £70,000. What's more, they've given us a deadline of September."

The fault lies not only with the utilities. Their ten-metre poles — eight of them above ground — are usually shared by British Telecom, whose lines radiate to several properties, and lighting authorities that find them convenient for street lamps.

In Appletrewhaithe, it came as quite a shock to discover that not only would some poles have to remain, but new ones may have to be erected to accommodate BT, which was not prepared to bury its cables. Not surprisingly, Mrs Edmonds and the parish council were undeterred by a first refusal and began further rounds of persuasion, this time backed by Dale Campbell-Savours, their local MP, and Richard Simmons, chairman of the Countryside Commission.

"The Countryside Commission stated the three criteria for areas in need of urgent undergrounding were: being in a national park, in an area of outstanding natural beauty or with

mountain scenery. We fulfilled all three," says Mrs Edmonds.

BT agreed to hide one length of cable in a Norweb trench, although some poles must remain. Perhaps fearing an unwelcome rash of applications for similar schemes, BT was "anxious to point out that 'Appletrewhaithe is unique'". A spokeswoman said: "Aesthetic reasons are not strong enough to justify the high cost." She also cited environmental disadvantages: the disruptive digging up of roads, paths and gardens; that underground installations used between five and 14 times more energy than overhead; and that underground equipment used non-renewable resources.

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About the author

It was while Scott was studying maths at school that he developed the special calculation skills he now possesses. Scott says, "I was always looking for the quickest way to find the most accurate solution to maths problems."

Upon leaving school Scott joined the air force, where he served as an intelligence officer and a computer programme programmer. While in the service a colleague asked Scott to help his son who had failed third grade twice. He showed the colleague's son the techniques he had developed for himself. Shortly after, he received a call from the boy's teacher who was amazed at the improvement in the boy's work and asked Scott to show him what he was doing.

Scott now conducts hundreds of free maths seminars in schools across America, teaching children that maths can be both fun and easy.

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THE TIMES WEEKLY

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For this week's challenge, David Bowker spends seven days as a Good Samaritan - but he is not the answer to people's prayers

Thanks for nothing, neighbour

At school, my religious studies teacher was so fond of me that he used to pray for me in his spare time. I don't know where he got all those tall stories he used to tell in class, but if he put them all together in a book, it'd be as popular as *The Bible*. Anyway, one of these entertaining but unlikely yarns featured a certain Good Samaritan, my role model for this week's challenge.

My first opportunity to do good arrived on Sunday night. I was driving along a dark country road in a thunderstorm when I noticed a car parked by the side of the road, hazard lights flashing. A woman was attempting to flag down passing vehicles, while her husband bused himself under the car bonnet. I slowed to a crawl and rolled down my window. "Have you broken down?" I asked. The woman's drenched and exhausted face shone with relief. "Thank God," she sighed. "I thought no one was ever going to stop."

"It was the least I could do," I told her. Immediately, I drove away, safe in the knowledge that I had restored that poor woman's faith in humanity.

On Monday, a salesman knocked on the door with a forlorn face. I told him: "That won't do your face any good at all." He was a young man, thin and lost-looking. He was carrying a battered case. "My name's Colin. Would you like to buy something?" he asked. "Yes," I said. "I'd like to buy a Sony wide-screen TV with quadrophonic speakers, please."

Crestfallen, Colin explained that he'd only got dusters, chamois leathers and tea towels. "Well, come in and let's have a doggone look at them," I enthused.

Over tea, I asked Colin what he was doing in the no-hoper business. He said: "It's just temporary. I'm really a writer." I wasn't particularly pleased to hear this. I am forever meeting people who tell me: "I'm sure I've got a book in me." I usually reply: "Have you ever considered having it removed?" But Colin was worryingly insistent.

"Maybe you know my work," he said.

I write for *The Times*. A little column called *Seven Long Days*. It's a load of rubbish, but it pays the bills."

I was too frightened to argue with him. I purchased a tea towel showing Diana and Dodi holding hands in Heaven, and sent Colin on his way.

On Tuesday, it rained again. The woman next door had gone out, leaving her washing hanging on the line. I unpegged her laundry, which mainly consisted of voluminous female undergarments, and dried it by my own fireside. That evening, carrying the laundry, I rang my neighbour's front-door bell. Her husband answered.

SEVEN LONG DAYS



On Friday nights, Pat the milkman comes round to collect his milk money. Pat is a charming, friendly chap who just happens to suffer from a personal hygiene problem. His smell is so acute that we have christened him "Cowpat". I thought that keeping mum about the hum was helpful neither to Pat nor his

other customers. So, I did what Pat's best friend should have done long ago. In as kind a voice as I could muster, I said: "Ugh, you stink."

Rather childishly, Pat said: "No I don't." I said: "Oh? I suppose you think it's perfectly normal to be covered in bluebottles?"

Pat retaliated by calling out the man next door, who fortunately hadn't killed his wife after all. He'd just stunned her. Both of them said that if anyone whiffed it was me.

"And you're a liar," added the milkman. "Fancy saying you write that thing in *The Times* when we all know that Colin the duster salesman writes it."

Like the Good Samaritan, I found that I couldn't pass by on the other side of the road while the milkman made false allegations about me. So I turned his money bag upside down and tipped his loose change all over the path.



WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

JUNE 19-21
Beethoven's Piano Music: Calligraphy. Two courses this weekend at Maryland College, Woburn, Beds (01525 292001). Prices £99 residential, £76 non-residential.

Mounting and framing pictures: Paper embellishment for jewellery; Botanical illustration; Calligraphy; Watercolours; Writing for the press. All this weekend at the West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Prices from £156, residential.

Wild flowers of the South Tyne: A weekend course with the YHA at Alston, Cumbria (01434 381509). Two nights from £70, inclusive.

The canals and waterways of Britain: Discover yoga. All this weekend at the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Canal course £161 residential, £115 non-residential; Yoga £149 residential, £103 non-residential.

A cultural heritage weekend: Industrial archaeology and social history. With Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). Price from £175, inclusive.

Drawing, sketching and watercolours for improvers: All this weekend at the Flatford Mill Field Study Centre, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283). Prices from £105 residential and £82 non-residential.

Surfing courses: Beginners to intermediates with BSA professional tuition at Treyarnon Bay, Cornwall

(01841 520322). Two-night weekend breaks £90, inclusive.
Creative courses at craft fair weekend at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 862904). Prices from £159 residential, £69 non-residential.

JUNE 26-28
Bridge, the fundamentals: At Maryland College, Woburn, Beds (01525 292001). Price £99, residential; £76, non-residential.
Silk painting; Pottery; Throwing in porcelain; Jewellery making; Drawing workshop; Photography - hand colouring. All at the West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Prices from £156, residential.

Walking and cycling in the Cotswolds: Itineraries and information pack covering local history, pubs and tearooms. Price, with B&B from £105 for walkers and from £98 for cyclists. Details from Compass Holidays of Cheltenham (01242 250642).

Suffolk's medieval houses: All this weekend at Flatford Mill Field Studies Centre, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283). Price from £105 residential.

Introducing insects: Wild flowers for beginners: At the Field Studies Council, Juniper Hall Centre, Dorking, Surrey (01306 883849). Prices from £102 residential, £78 non-residential.

Basic china mending: at the Mowbray School of Porcelain Res-



Learn about social history in Hereford next weekend, or jazz in Staffordshire in July

toration, Hatfield, Herts (01707 270158). Price £135.

Lace making; Oriental dancing; Belly dancing; Veil dancing; Mongolian folk dancing: At the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, West Sussex (01798 865306). Prices from £14 residential, £90 non-residential.

The natural history of bats: Painting and drawing wild flowers. At the University of Cambridge,

Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price per course £120, residential.

Story of the English village; Pewter craft; Spanish for beginners: All this weekend at the Pendrell Hall College, Codsall Wood, near Wolverhampton (01902 434112). Prices from £86 residential and £60 non-residential.

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Office). Both at the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Price from £175, residential.

Gliding weekends: From Charingworth Manor in the Cotswolds (01386 593555) in conjunction with the Bidford Gliding Club.

Two nights, half board, with instruction and two flights, £260.
Llama trekking on the coast of Yorkshire: from the Wray Head Hotel, near Scarborough. Weekend rates from £148, half board, including llama trek. Full details on 01723 374374.

Guided walking weekends in the west of Ireland - along the newly opened East Clare Way. From Finkle in County Clare with Green Boreen Walking Holidays (00353 61 924303). Prices, excluding flights but with pick-up from Shannon, £150 for two nights.

Family adventure weekends: including swimming, canoeing, windsurfing, abseiling and climbing. Two nights full board £80. Also multi-activity weekends for singles £175 and an air experience weekend flying in a helicopter or balloon, Cessna, microlight or glider, £325. All with Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083).

Wildlife walks to the wild places of Norfolk: Guided walks through bird habitats, salt marshes, sea-shores and a private estate. With Anglian Activity Breaks of Norwich (01603 700770). Price from £55. Accommodation available.

Cider with Rosie walking breaks in the Gloucester Cotswolds: Two-night breaks at prices from £130, with accommodation in a 17th-century inn. Itineraries and packed lunches supplied. Full details from Compass Holidays of Cheltenham (01242 250642).

Sicily and Sardinia: Drawing and

painting wild flowers. Both this weekend at the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £120, inclusive.

Folk dancing weekend: This weekend at Alston Hall Residential College, Preston, Lancs (01772 784661). Price £100 residential, £75 non-residential.

Badgers and small mammals: Painting and drawing butterflies. At the Juniper Hall Field Centre, Dorking, Surrey (01306 883849). Prices from £102 residential and £88 non-residential.

Architectural styles; Floral art: All this weekend at the Hill Residential Centre, Abergavenny, South Wales (01495 333777). Prices from £88-£98 per course.

Antiques for beginners; Watercolours for beginners; Water wildlife: All this weekend at the Horncastle College, Horncastle, Lincs (01507 522449). Price per course £86.

Mozart's last year; Still life painting - Matisse; Touch wood - superstitions. All this weekend at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 890296). Prices from £159 residential, and £69 non-residential.

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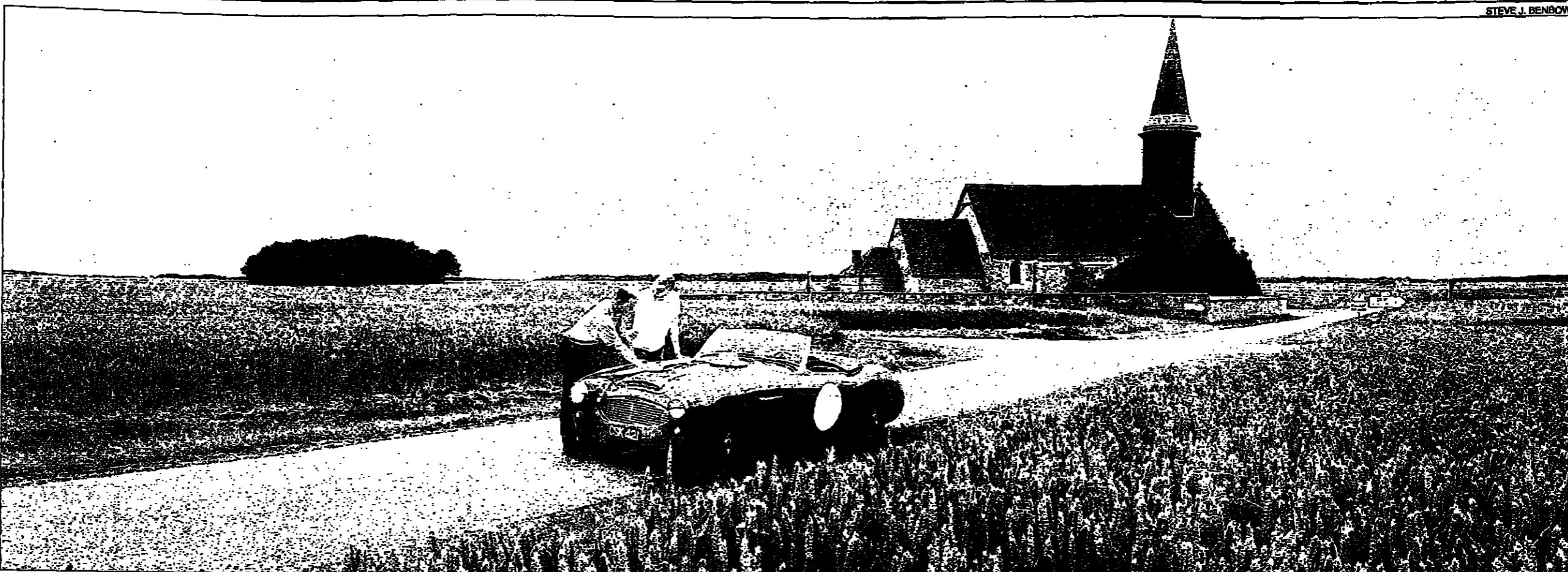
THE TIMES TRAVEL

Where they come to watch *The Quiet Man*

Ireland · 31



STEVE J. PENROW



France was once a nightmare for the unprepared traveller, as Robin Young discovered when his parents launched family invasions — and promptly got lost. Now he is more organised — and he still discovers new facets to our Gallic neighbour

Vive la différence! Vive la France!

Churchill's Dieppe raid was one of those wartime disasters that was claimed to have laid the foundations of later success. Looking back, I suppose the same could be said for my own family's first peacetime forays into France.

My parents and I would fly by the seat of our pants, hunting out roadside hotels when daylight failed and eating in their dining rooms, usually from a three-course *prix fixe* menu ending in a solemn litany of "glace, pâtisserie ou fruit".

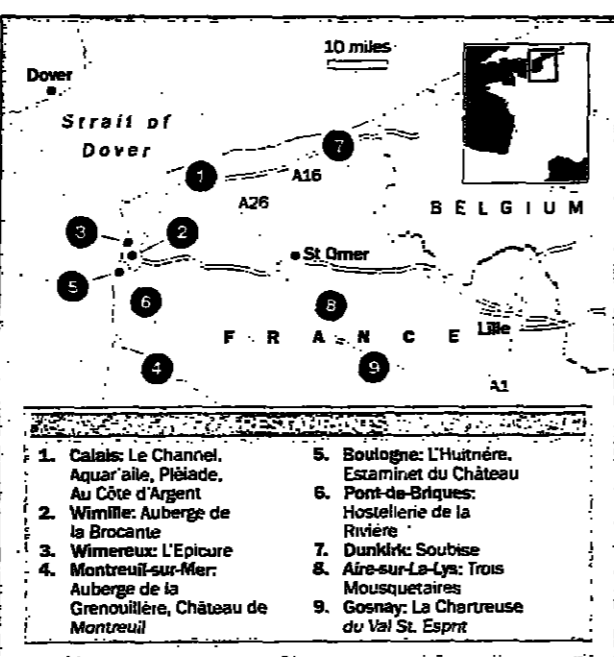
In those distant days of the 1950s and 1960s, British tourists distrusted French culinary standards so much they would invariably call for the fruit basket and then shamelessly conceal apples and oranges about their person for consumption the following day, just in case they could not find an affordable lunch fit to eat.

But, despite this annual courting of holiday disappointment and disaster, these early trips nevertheless instilled in me a love of France that has remained to this day. My wife and I now visit nine or ten times a year, the crucial difference from my childhood holidays being that now we plan our invasions with near-military precision. Dull meals in dingy hotels have been consigned to the past.

First, we decide upon and map the route, whether it be Alsace, Burgundy, the Côte d'Azur, the Pyrenees or the Dordogne. Then we book hotels well ahead, faxing confirmations to ensure there is not the slightest chance of misunderstanding. During our first meal on the stopover drive on French soil — a blessed relief from hugely overpriced and often still barely competent standards of cooking and service in Britain — we feel secure in the knowledge that the holiday should run like clockwork.

We are both addicts of France, long term residents of Normandy, frequent visitors to Paris, recidivists to the Basque country, avaricious opportunists for any chance to eat and drink in Alsace or Burgundy, and most recently we have become enthusiasts for opera in Toulouse. We have plumbed France's deepest caves in the Dordogne, worshipped at the feet of its

Hunting out the best restaurants and hotels in France has been a lifelong obsession for Robin Young. Here, in the first of a four-part country guide, he explains why he plans his French holidays with military precision



highest mountains in the Alps and Pyrenees, and walked the length of its shortest river, beside which we used to have a cottage.

But, as veteran campaigners, we never forget that however long the journey and whatever the destination, the descent on France is still a logistical exercise requiring forethought and careful preparation.

Some 10.5 million visitors crossed the Channel from Britain to France last year. This year, whatever the World Cup complications, there are expected to be another 500,000.

In this invasion your fellow-

travelling countrymen are not your allies. They are your rivals. You want the best bedrooms and best meals? You are going to have to fight for them with the equivalent of almost a fifth of the British population — let alone naïve French, transatlantic trippers and coach parties from every country in Europe. France received 58 million visitors last year.

Apply, because this makes the invasion planner's job both easier and more intriguing. France is also a country incredibly well prepared and equipped to

welcome visitors, and more densely documented than any other destination.

Whatever you want to know about France will be in a guidebook. There is now even a guidebook covering vegetarian restaurants — unheard of a few years ago. There are guides for walkers, cyclists, mountaineers, autoroute users, train travellers, organic food faddists, organ-lovers, orgy organisers and those wanting to cosy up in country cottages, converted mills or châteaux.

I find I could happily spend my life reading French guidebooks. The late Roy Plomley, deviser of *Desert Island Discs*, actually chose as his own book to take to that ultimate destination, the *Red Michelin Guide to France*. He was a kindred spirit, obviously.

No other country exercises so powerful an attraction on British holidaymakers, and, beyond mere geographical proximity, there is a simple reason. It is, to put it succinctly, that France has everything.

It has chic, glamour and sunshine. It has winter ski resorts and summer alpine walks, and sandy beaches and fashionable promenades, often within an hour's drive of each other. From the beaches of Cannes or the Promenade des Anglais in Nice, it is but a quick whirl up the mountains to the ski resorts around Isola 2000 and the peaks of the Mercantour, where the snow lingers all year round.

France has, for me, incontestably the best cuisine and

the best restaurants in the world. To my mind it still produces the world's finest wines, perfumes, fashions, bread, cheeses, chocolate, glass and art, to name a few things at random. And its shops put ours to shame. They actually ask if you would like things gift wrapped, free, as a matter of course. In Britain you are lucky to get a brown paper bag.

Its cultural life is full of glories (Paris has five proper opera houses at present, to London's, well, none); its national monuments are legion

and wonderfully displayed (just conjure a mental image of Notre-Dame in Paris and St Paul's in London and you have all too clear an idea of the difference between our two countries).

Its national parks brim with adventure — trekking, hang-gliding, white water rafting, rock-climbing and bouncing around archaeological remains in four-wheel drives are all well-established favourites. There is a real frisson to be had from pulling in at an

auberge terrace overlooking some superb view, say of the Gorges du Loup in the Nice hinterland, and watching the paragliders swishing almost silently past among the circling swifts; or to interrupt an exploration down the valley of the Seine at the vastly emotive ruins of Jumièges' abbey and find oneself caught up in the frenzy of a French cycle race; or, on a pilgrimage to Nîmes to visit the flamingoes of the Camargue, to discover that one coincides in the town with the marshland's cowboys astride their stocky white horses

for the running of the bulls. Yet this wonderful country, full of such serendipitous surprises, has a road network for the most part still sufficiently uncrowded to make driving a pleasure — a sensation long consigned to the past on British motorways. On top of this, everything from its cake and chocolate shops to its motorway rest stops to its small town markets are usually vastly superior to their British equivalents.

For me, the conclusion to draw from all of this is obvious. We subsist in the lower depths of civilisation: France commands the heights.

Next week Robin Young will guide you down the autoroutes to the south

DINING OUT IN PAS DE CALAIS

■ FOR outward and return journeys, holiday planners need to be well apprised of the best hotels and restaurants in and around their port of entry. The *Red Michelin Guide 1998* has a useful map showing all the places listed or given awards within 30 minutes drive of Calais (there are similar maps for Le Havre and St Malo). The current *Michelin Road Atlas* also shows places with entries in the *Red Guide*.

■ Within Calais, Le Channel (00 33 3 2134 4230) has been awarded a Bib Gourmand symbol in recognition of its good food at moderate prices — you must pre-book.

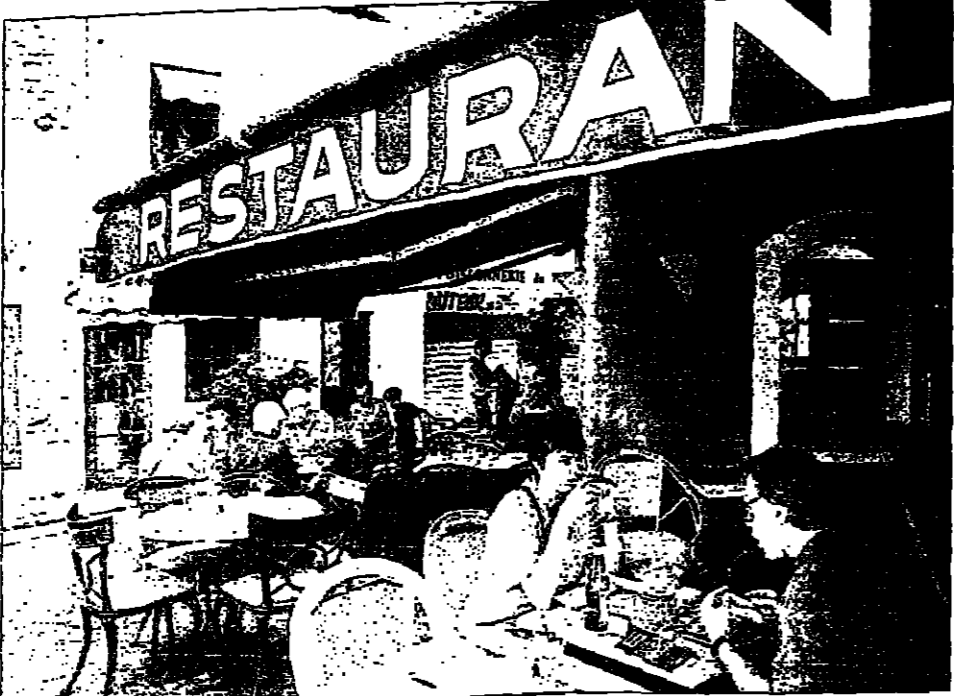
■ Best alternatives are the modern *Aquarium* (3 2134 0000), overlooking the beach, and the backstreet *Pléiade* (3 2134 0370). Au Côte d'Argent (3 2134 6807), beside the harbour entrance, specialises in fish dishes.

■ Close to Boulogne is the delightful *Auberge de la Brocante* (3 2183 1931), beside the church in the village of Wimille. Note also the tiny *L'Épicure* (3 2183 2183) in the seaside town of Wimereux, where Philippe Carré offers puntilious cooking. *Montreuil-sur-Mer* has the tiny, quaint *Auberge de la Grenouillère* (3 2106 0722), in an idyllic riverside setting, and Christian Germain's more aristocratic *Château de Montreuil* (3 2181 5304), set in gardens.

■ In Boulogne, I like *L'Huitrière* (3 2131 3527), the unpretentious *Estaminet du Château* (3 2191 4966) in the old town and the traditional, Michelin-starred *Hostellerie de la Rivière* (3 2132 2281) at Pont-de-Briques. Close to Dunkirk is the Bib Gourmand-awarded *Soubise* (3 2864 6600), with commendable menus from £10.50.

■ Down the A26, the best options for a room and a meal are the *debonair Trois Mousquetaires* (3 2139 0111) at Aire-sur-la-Lys and *La Châtrouse du Val St Esprit* (3 2162 8000) in a ten-acre park at Gosnay. ■ Reading: *Michelin Red Guide: France 1998* (Michelin, £15.25).

■ Further information: French Tourist Office (0891 244 123). Calls are charged at 50p a minute.



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ANYONE FOR TENNIS HOLIDAYS?

Take a break in tennis heaven



THE annual epidemic of Wimbledon fever is imminent. The symptoms never vary. Out come neglected tennis rackets and moth-eaten balls, and the brief lemning-like rush to the park courts is on. Would Club Med's prescription of Portuguese fun in the sun — free coaching and tournaments — guarantee that my enthusiasm will, for once, outlast the strawberry season?

I checked into Da Balaia, the French organisation's village on the Algarve, and woke to sunshine, birdsong from a nest in the hibiscus scrambling over my terrace — and utter panic. Humiliation surely awaited from sports freaks, decades younger, wearing pristine whites?

"Get a grip," I told my 57-year-old self. A new grip was what I got from Niki, the young German coach in plaid and baseball cap, adjusting my sweaty clutch on the racket, when I recovered the will to live after a three-times-round-the-court warm-up jog.

My jitters were not necessary. The advanced class looked seriously competitive, but the atmosphere among us five in the intermediate class (you assess your own level, with eight the maximum to a group) was laid back. The dress code ranged from the paunchy Portuguese fish importer's surfing baggies to the skintight black cycling shorts sported by Sabine, a nursery teacher from Stuttgart.

In an hour of forehand and backhand drills, Niki sized up our weaknesses and exhorted us to "get down in the knees" and "turn those shoulders". Although GOs (*gentils organisateurs*, as staff are known) are multilingual, English was

A coaching holiday on the Algarve helped Linda O'Callaghan raise her game

the common denominator in the group — which ranged in age from twenties to fifties, and included a French doctor and a Belgian builder.

Partners for the afternoon's open "surprise tournament" were picked from piles of men's and women's rackets. My attempts to return a German guest's Scud missile aces were futile, but it was an excellent chance to learn from more experienced players.

"Sign up for a sport and you acquire an instant circle of friends," explained Andrew, a Londoner in the rag trade, from the advanced class. We rested our legs at a table of tennis devotees, and drank free wine before joining the feeding frenzy at a gargantuan buffet.

Andrew, who was on his own, like a sixth of my fellow guests (nobody owned up to looking for romance), was a regular GM (*gentil membre* — as guests are known). "Hardly the sexy 'Club Med' of the 1960s, is it?" he laughed, noting an average age higher than the brochure's 38.

Club Med is an adman's dream of brand loyalty. I met people who had graduated from the original thatched hut villages (eight survive, attracting a younger crowd), to camps with children's clubs and have never considered a



Young and old can get top coaching advice on a tennis break abroad. Club Med throws holiday-makers of all standards together at its Portuguese centre on the Algarve

different holiday company. "I think I'm in tennis heaven," sighed the nursery teacher, refreshing sea breezes and piney aromas wafting over us as Niki sorted out our serves with a smile and gave pointers on angling the body and tossing the ball bird-scaringly

high. Our supportive group applauded success and commiserated on bad backhand days, our technique and tans improving daily.

We learnt how to anticipate where opponents' strokes would land and devious match tactics, and I finally

cracked the elusive top spin that adds professional power to strokes: tilting the racket head was our patient spin doctor's secret. On Niki's day off, we giggled through a session with Pasquale, an Italian coach, as he pranced about imitating a butterfly. "It eez the ball, your racket the net. For the volley, don't hurt your butterfly, catch it gently. Now SMASH! Keel that bug!"

After the hour's tuition it was tee time for some, dashing off for golf lessons, but we tennis addicts hung out at the sociable clubhouse, by mid-

evening for sunbed snoring on the spotless private beach and playing jolky Bingo and quickfire quiz questions that got my French up to speed. I was joint winner with a Belgian taxman one day: our prize a night together — mercifully commuted to a glass of champagne.

Whenever a disco blast of "Go, go, go, allez, allez, allez!" heralded hyperactive staff and poolside high jinks, I fled to tranquil corners of the grounds, dotted with lemon, orange and palm trees. Going Awol from the women's doubles match, I joined a two-hour barefoot stroll along the sands to Albufeira. "When I promised you fabulous views, that wasn't what I had in mind," commented the English GO guiding the walk, when we surprised naked

Adonises worshipping the sun and each other in a tiny cove. A cold beer never tasted so good as we flopped in a bar overlooking a fishermen's beach before exploring a labyrinth of cobbled alleys.

At night, the heaving Club Med bar was daunting, and the novelty of spotting Pasquale in a cancan chorus line or Niki performing conjuring tricks in the GOs' naff variety shows soon wore off. My contribution to Club Med's annual three million litre wine consumption ruled out floodlit tennis, so it was

early to bed in preparation for the women's singles championship.

Playing on clay courts, an unfamiliar surface to me, I was knocked out in the second round on a tie-break to Andrew's cheery "Nice shot, shame the court moved". But I basked in Niki's praise that I had remembered her advice to let the ball drop before whacking it late and hard.

Perched in an olive tree for a grand view of the final, I watched a thunder-thighed Portuguese woman take the title. "Tennis is life, the rest mere detail," was emblazoned across her chest. But at the prizegiving ceremony, a coveted medal was mine: our coaches' *bon coeur* award — for being a good sport.

Back home, filling in a tennis club application and convinced I had resisted Club Med's seduction, I caught myself leafing through the brochure, thinking that a total immersion tennis week in the Bahamas sounded blissful. Was it something in the wine?

MATCH POINTS

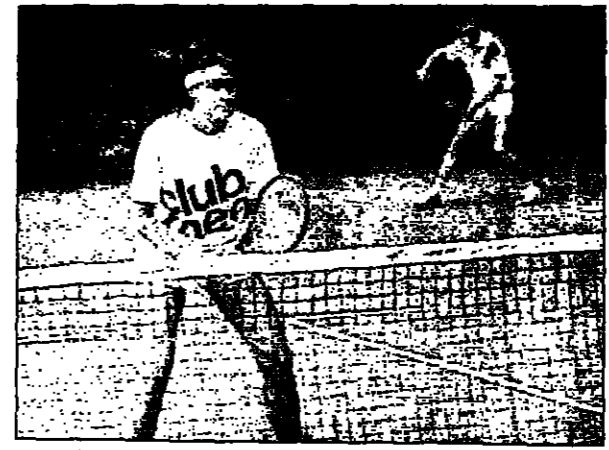
■ Linda O'Callaghan travelled with Club Med (0171-581 1161). Tennis coaching is available at most of the company's 122 villages (in 36 countries) for all standards. A week at Da Balaia, on the Algarve, open March to October, costs between £587 and £1,021 depending on the time of year, inclusive of flights, full board with unlimited wine and beer, entertainment and insurance. Single supplement from £56 per week. Children are welcome but there are no special facilities for them. Pricey excursions include Lisbon, where Expo '98 runs until September 30, market trips and Jeep safaris.

■ Tips: Excellent rackets are loaned free but you may feel more confident with your own. May, June, September and October, with top temperatures of 25C, are ideal for tennis.

■ Eating: Themed buffets (Portuguese, French, Tex-Mex etc) and waiter-service restaurants (Moroccan, fish and fancy French).

■ Reading: Iain Johnston's thriller *Wimbledon 2000* (Mandarin, £4.99) is the perfect paperback. *Essential Algarve and Southern Portugal* (AA, £4.99) and *Lisbon* (Mini Rough Guides, £5.99) for the Expo outing.

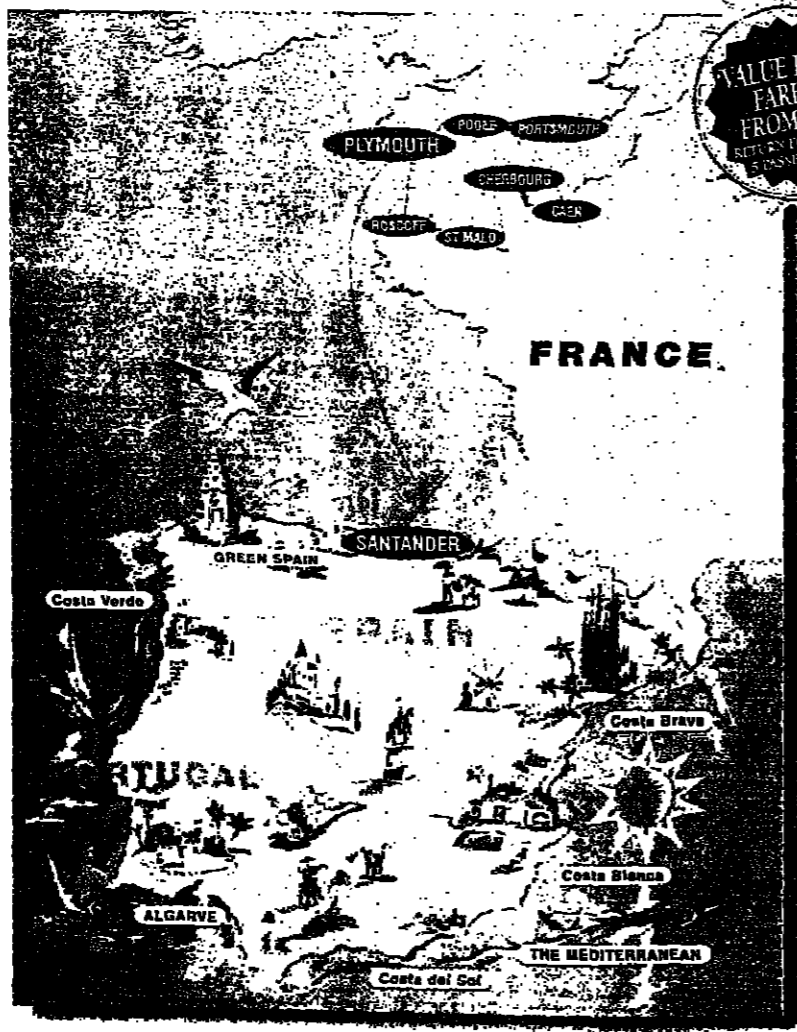
■ Information: Portuguese Tourist Office (0171-494 1441).



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ANYONE FOR TENNIS HOLIDAYS?

Watch out, Wimbledon, I'm on my way

Concentrated tennis coaching on holiday from a knowledgeable and talented teacher can transform your game, says Doug Sager

THE VERDICT was: "You can be fixed." My long-time tennis guru volleyed it across the net with a grin which seemed to threaten as much as it promised. My elbow ached, my feet pinched in this season's shoes and my heart was well into the red-line zone. But I believed. Therefore I was here, on the springy red clay courts of Hotel Hermitage, beside the white sand beaches of Biodola Bay on the Tuscan isle of Elba — like an old banger rolled into the body shop, ready and willing to be fixed.

I was a vintage model — slow to start, running erratically — and my game was riddled with rust spots. It took a master craftsman like Mark Nickless to pound out the dents in my forehand and put some spring back into my suspension. This latter fix was accomplished in seconds. He showed me how to hit from the legs, instead of windmilling my arms. The ache in my elbow eased.

My mechanic was a native Californian whom I have followed from the days of wooden rackets, from Mombasa to Marrakesh, as he perfected his idiosyncratic teaching technique in a dozen world-class resorts. Tennis is too easy, Nickless told me — after successfully tweaking yet another faltering aspect of my game. That was why he taught himself golf — acquiring a handicap of two in less than 12 months. A veteran of the ATP satellite tour and certified USPTA pro, he is also a US Golf Teachers' Federation licensed golf instructor. At the five-star Hermitage, with its six red clay tennis courts and six beachside golf greens, he seemed finally to have found a permanent home.

"Location, location, location," he intoned like an estate agent, drawing lines in the clay to show that for each shot I delivered across the net there was only one "percentage position" (tennis jargon for the best position from which to return the opponent's next shot). Being in the right place not only reduces the wear and tear of racing mindlessly around the court, it allowed me to focus on the way the point was likely to develop. "Anticipation," Nickless said, "wins more points than perspiration."

Not that there was not a lot of sweat and swearing in the lessons ahead. But there were sublime moments, too — and breakthroughs in stroke mechanics which I prayed would stay with me, at least through the summer.

A WEEKS tennis holiday can transform any player into a winner, winning being defined on the most personal level as wiping that grin off the face of somebody who has kicked you all over the court. Instead of regimented stances and grips, the best teachers work within your physical limitations for an understanding of the game. You become your own coach and learning continues long after the lesson is over.

Most tennis resorts have swimming, golf, windsurfing, horse-riding or other holiday options for après-tennis or for non-playing family members. Such amenities are obviously important in choosing a holiday. But for the player there are also tennis issues to assess.

For me, the teacher is the most important factor. Beware of free lessons included in holiday packages. The pro is often a talented player with no teaching skills. The opposite extreme is a tennis guru like Mark Nickless (see above). But a good compromise is a pro who is trained to teach in a specific system, such as the instructors at the Peter Burwash or Nick Bollettieri centres around the world.

Check out the courts. Clay is easier on the knees, but indoor courts are essential for the player who does not want to miss a day. Some resorts offer free court time outside of lesson times; others charge hefty fees. Ball machines, video analysis and radar guns to measure service velocity are standard at serious centres.

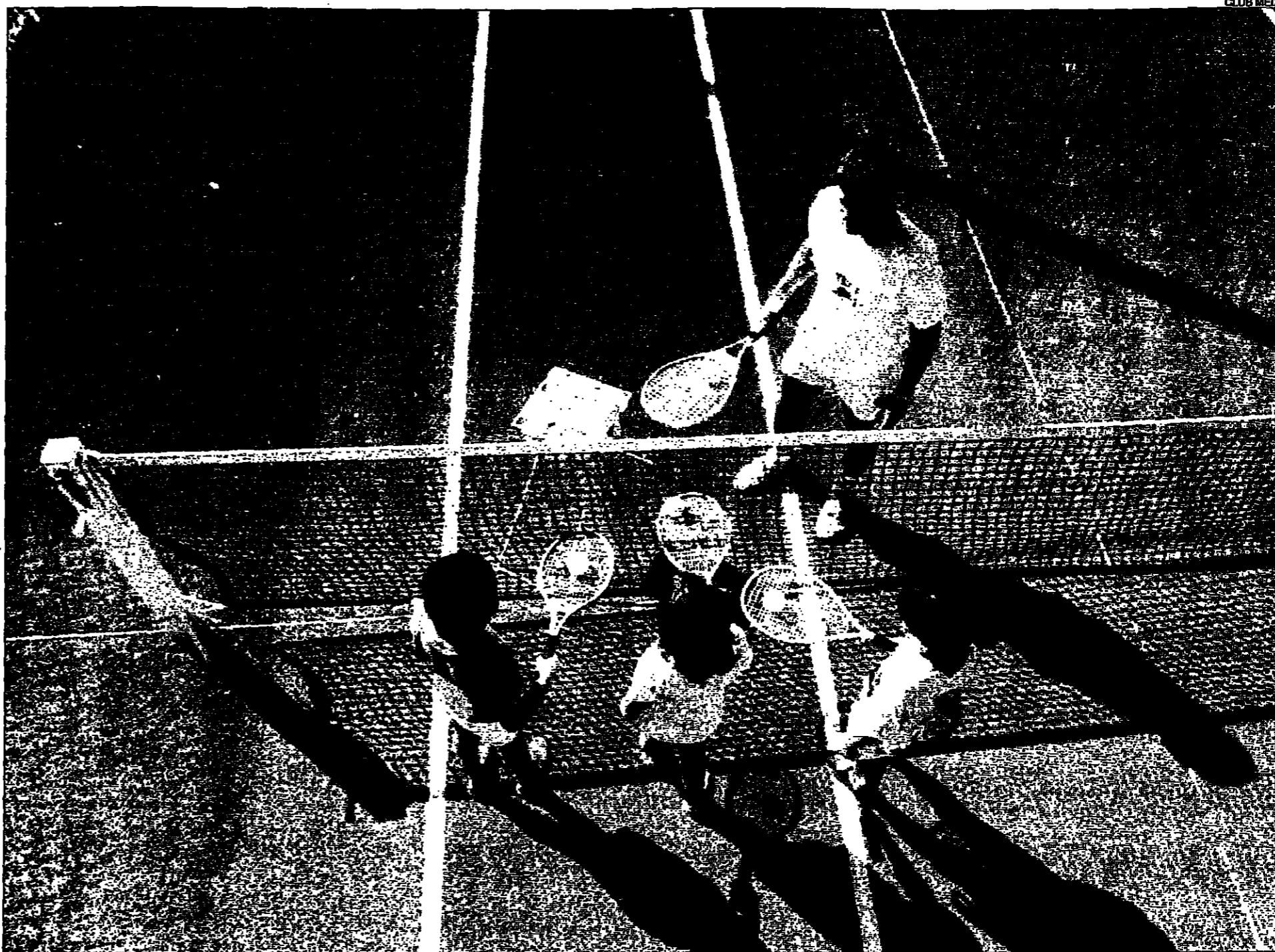
Courses vary considerably in energy level and skills

required, although most centres offer lessons for all abilities. Beginners generally find individual tuition the most productive and least embarrassing. In a class, four students per teacher is ideal. Beginners should limit court time to two hours per day. Even fit players will find six hours on court, split into morning and afternoon sessions, a tough regime.

The Lawn Tennis Association (0171-381 7111) has a free list of courses and clinics in Britain, including its own training sessions at Bisham Abbey, Buckinghamshire, as well as details of centres abroad. Here is my own recommendation of resorts with tennis instruction for recreational players coupled with holiday amenities.

Mark Nickless Tennis Academy at the Hotel Hermitage in Biodola, Elba. Powder Byrne (0181-871 3300) offers breaks from £1,047 to £1,594 per person per week including return flights from the UK. Half-board and five days' tuition. There are eight clay courts and one synthetic ball machine; radar; maximum of four players per pro.

Annabel Croft will be hosting a five-day clinic starting August 31, but otherwise players are guaranteed the personal on-court expertise of Mark Nickless. Set in a seaside park, with hotel rooms built into cliffside niches, the Hermitage is renowned for its four-star cuisine. A private driving range over a lake, six holes of golf and scuba diving add options to tennis on impeccably maintained courts. Nickless's playful teaching style



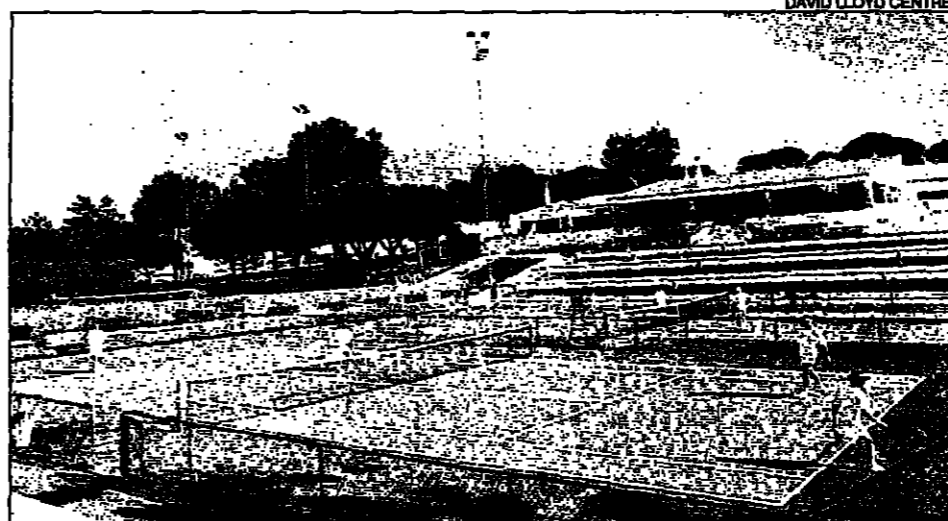
Eyes on the ball: family tennis holidays provide enough exercise to keep the children amused while their parents concentrate on the more technical aspects of the game

works well with children and developing players looking for the latest techniques.

Peter Burwash International at Stanglwirt, Austria (00 43 5358 3310). From £500 to £715 per person per week including half-board and tuition. Flights are not included. There are eight outdoor clay and six indoor courts; ball machines; radar; video; maximum of four players per pro.

Burwash, a former touring pro, has a tennis-for-life system that, in my experience, is the most advanced and efficient teaching. Greg Rusedski got his match-playing instruction from Burwash. Stanglwirt is a five-star ecologically orientated hotel with views of the Wilden Kaiser in the Austrian Tyrol and its own indoor Lipizaner riding academy, as well as indoor/outdoor pools, massage and spa facilities. This is Burwash's European headquarters; there is nowhere better for intermediate to advanced players.

Windmill Hill Place, Windmill Hill, East Sussex (01323 832552). From £140 to £270 per person for a five-day break including accommodation, meals and tuition. There are eight grass, four synthetic grass, four hard and four indoor courts; six to eight players per pro.



Fun in the sun at the David Lloyd Centre at Vale do Lobo on the Algarve in Portugal

As Britain's only year-round tennis holiday centre, Windmill offers a country house ambience with an outdoor swimming pool and indoor and outdoor driving ranges.

Club Med (0171-581 1161) (price — see fact file on page 24). Club Med advertises itself as the world's largest tennis club, with 700 courts at 122 resorts. Free equipment and lessons are provided and there is no charge for court time.

These courses are best for relaxed players looking for casual social doubles. More advanced teaching is available at three Club Med Intensive

Tennis centres, in Don Miguel, Spain, and in Pompadour and Vitel in France.

David Lloyd Tennis Centre, Vale do Lobo, Algarve, Portugal. Light Blue Travel (01223 568904) offers a week for £479-£689 per person including flights, accommodation, tuition and car hire. There are eight hard and four artificial clay courts; a maximum of eight players per pro.

Set in the luxurious seaside grounds of the Algarve's premier resort, and under the direction of the David Lloyd team, Vale do Lobo is best for middle-level recreational play-

ers looking for tennis fun in the sun.

Roy Emerson Tennis Clinics, Palace Hotel, Gstaad, Switzerland (00 41 33 748 5000). From £1,350 to £1,420 per person per week full board, including tuition. Flights not included. There are four clay courts and a maximum of four players per pro.

A rare opportunity to play with the maestro who has won more grand slams than any other, and to play in the surroundings of the Palace Hotel, Gstaad. Players must be at least 14 years old, slightly older for the off-court cham-

TENNIS FOR KIDS

- The Lawn Tennis Association (0171-381 7111) advises parents to take their tennis-mad children to the local club or Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) county office. The latter will have LTA-approved coaches. The LTA offers courses in Marlow, Buckinghamshire (01628 483084). PGL Adventure Holidays (01989 768768) offers residential holidays for 12 to 18-year-olds during July and August; all levels welcome.
- Sports & Leisure Holidays (01794 500500) offers tailor-made holidays in Spain. One week's tennis training starts at £45 for children and £90 for adults. Accommodation is from £90 per person for one week based on four sharing; flights start at £179 per person.
- Jonathan Markson Tennis (0171-460 0600) offers courses in Portugal. One week's tennis training starts at £375 per child and £475 per adult, including accommodation based on four sharing and car hire; flights are not included.

pagne picnics. Emerson is on court every day, assisted by other pros. The standard is quite competitive, with regular repeat customers. The Emerson clinics attract well-heeled party types with aggressive, if not adroit, strokes.

Luis Wyche Tennis Centre, La Sella, Denia, Spain. Sportif (01273 844919) offers a week from £482 to £564 per person including return flights, hire car, self-catering accommodation and tuition. There are two hard and six clay courts; a maximum of six players per pro. Californian Luis Wyche is

an inspirational tennis mentor whose Dynamic Power System emphasises the mental game. La Sella is home to an Andalusian riding centre and a championship golf course. Nearby Denia is a seaside town with narrow, winding lanes and a windsurfing school. La Sella's low-cost apartments are ideal for tennis groups.

Other operators include: Sports & Leisure Holidays (01794 500500); Top Spin Holidays (01203 713700); Jonathan Markson Tennis (0171-460 0600); Nick Bollettieri's US camps (001 941 755 1000).



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New Russians – and old comrades

Trevor Fishlock, who formerly reported from Moscow, returns to the city after six years' absence and looks up some old friends

A curious business, dropping in on Lenin. In Soviet times you had the full evil-empire monty. You queued on Red Square while finger-jabbing guards glared and growled: "Hands out of your pockets", and "You there, stop talking". Passing the bayonets of taut KGB sentries, you descended with a shiver into the dark temple of Communism's invented god.

This time, though, six years after I had last been in Moscow, there was no intimidation and no sinister ballet of guards. I strolled the glinting cobbles to the mausoleum and had Lenin pretty much to myself.

The satanic old pilgarric lay frowning in his stage-lit sarcophagus. I remembered the blue polka-dot tie, knotted by his underground Jeeves, and I fancied that the Tartar features with their fox-red brush of beard were rather more waxy than before.

The crypt was a theatre built to awe, but the mystique has evaporated. The manikin on the black catafalque seemed as much an oddity now as the stuffed four-legged duck in the biology room at my school. I rolled the arguments around in my mind: should Russia bury this Soviet ju-ju, and good riddance—or keep it as a reminder of the man's malignancy?

There is no proper answer: in any case, the sullen cubist tomb and its resident certainly earn their historic place in Red Square, the plaza where every visitor comes—must come—to wonder and to ponder.

This stage of pageantry and horror is the confluence of all the long roads of Russia: the Kremlin, on its western side, is the essence of Russian contradictions, with 70 acres of cathedrals, palaces, dungeons and tormented ghosts, a lurid blood-and-incense fairy tale written by ranting kings. A beautiful, terrible place. See it, then see it again.

A particularly grand view of Red Square, the Kremlin and the nine Ali Baba turbans of St Basil's Cathedral, can be had

CITIES

FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

from the Hotel Baltchug-Kempinski across the Moscow river. This is emphatically an assertion of post-Soviet Russia, luxurious, expensive and spacious, constructed with trucked-in Western materials behind the striking facade of the original hotel built in the mercantile Moscow of 1898.

There is a lot of this facadism in modern Moscow, a good attempt to retain the spirit and charms of what I always thought of as a yellow city because so many of its buildings and dowager mansions are painted ochre, butterscotch and primrose, with occasional variations of green and pink.

Under the direction of Yuri Luzhkov, the city's rotund, energetic and popular mayor, Moscow is undergoing a major paint job and renovation—with a positive salute to the imperial past.

Inevitably there are controversies. The rapidly rebuilt Cathedral of Christ the Saviour—the original was dynamited by Stalin—looks Disneyish to some eyes, a marvel to others; many think the new gigantic brown statue of Peter the Great is as lovely as an old Soviet sausage. But Peter is the mayor's hero. No doubt he admires the way that brilliant monster grasped Russia by the scruff of its neck and propelled it, squealing, into modernity. There's always been a belief that Russia can only really be managed by rough-edged autocrats.

I didn't stay in any of the really expensive hotels. Perhaps fittingly, for an old Soviet lag, I was lodged in the Ukrainiya, one of the Stalin wedding cakes whose cardiogram pinnacles lend such forbidding distinction to the



Where once the hammer and sickle reigned, Moscow is now flashy with hoardings, neon and western logos, including the familiar golden arches of McDonald's

skyline. From the 22nd floor I had a fine view of the river and the parliamentary White House, shelled by Boris Yeltsin to enforce his eviction order on the Communists in 1991.

Revolutions come and go, but some things never change. I had been in my room 15 minutes when the telephone rang and a breathy voice asked: "Would you like to spend time with sexy Russian girl?"

In the morning, I wondered if the Ukrainiya would make breakfast a memory lane experience of low-octane tea, cold peas and beetroot. It didn't. I had goodish coffee, bread and fruit, quite enough to fuel my walk in the sunshine to Red Square by way of the old Arbat. It was too early in the day for the artists, poets and buskers. In any case I hardly expected the place to have the buzz it had in the days of the Soviet sunset, when daring artists were roughed-up for their satirical cartoons.

I stopped for an excellent coffee and croissant served by a smiling waitress in a clean café. There was a time when I could hardly have dreamt of writing such simple words. The music was loud Abba, but you can't have everything. I enjoyed a lunch of pasta and wine with a friend in the Pomodoro, typical of the numerous small and agreeable restaurants which have helped to restore Moscow to civilisation.

The following day I was persuaded to enjoy a seminal Moscow experience, a lunch of hamburger and beer, served by cheerleaders in dinky netball skirts, in the shiny Starlite American diner, piquantly located in the shadow of one of the surviving statues of Lenin, on Kaluzhskaya Square.

From his plinth, Lenin casts his condescending gaze over the city and his successors impoverished. In many ways Moscow is seeking to restore itself to

what it was a century ago—fashionable, artistic, well-fed and cosmopolitan, a merchant city of businesses and abundantly stocked shops, flourishing theatres and churches. You can buy exotic fruits, just as you could in the 1890s.

Bobbing above Lenin's head is an advertising balloon and, where once the hammer and sickle reigned, Moscow is flashy with hoardings, neon, international logos and foreign boutiques. British Home Stores is in town and Marlboro man rides high. Across the streets hang banners proclaiming the new order: a bank announces its fifth birthday and the church declares that Christ is risen.

At night, the clicking you hear is either high heels or roulette balls. Raffish clubs, discotheques and bar life bloom; jazz, condemned by the Communists as the music of hoodligans, is in the air. For Reds, read blues.

Muscovites told me that ordinary people can't afford to shop in the spectacular new four-storey underground store in Manezh Square. And, they grumbled, the prices of the roundabouts in Gorky Park's amusement park are swingeing. On the other hand, many New Russians can afford to school their children in Britain and take their livers to Harley Street. Guides warn that dinner in the refurbished Praga hotel may cost US\$300, so I assume the bill is brought to the table by a paramedic. I heard of a businessman who walked out of a jeweller's because it had no watch expensive enough for him.

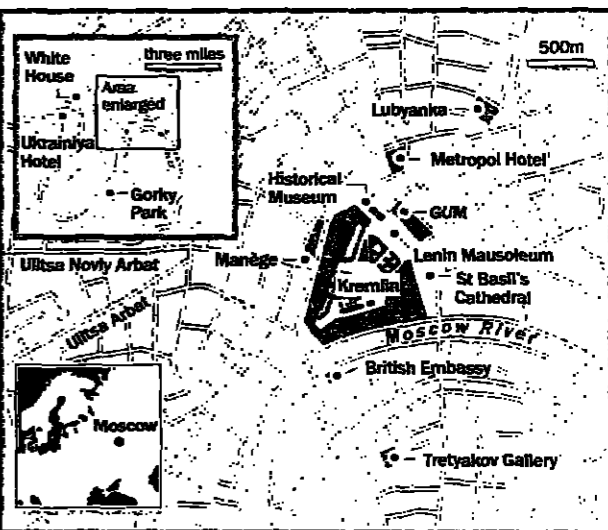
It's an unruly time, unfair and uneven, but Russia is an unruly place. The financial jungle is part of the excess of revolution. Everyone assumes that racketeers levy protection tax on businesses. Mafia stories scare visitors away, but gangsters fight among themselves and visitors are at no more risk than in London or

New York. It doesn't help, though, that large numbers of men wearing shapeless black leather jackets, smoking and looking shifty, hang about outside hotels.

I packed my days exploring secret little streets, using the Metro and learning the desovietised names of streets and stations. I stopped to watch the people from cafes and bars. I had coffee in the lobby at the elegant Metropol, partly because I wanted to study the brilliant restaurant ceiling. I fell into conversation with a Muscovite. "You can't deny that Moscow is exciting," she said, and added proudly: "Here, history is made." It seemed an echo of Alexander

Pushkin's words: "Moscow, those syllables can start! A tumult in the Russian heart."

But as I said, some things don't change. The arrival hall at Sheremetyevo airport remains an oppressive, dimly lit brown tomb. I always imagined it was designed by a psychologist to induce despair. And while I was photographing Red Square a squat policeman approached. "The Square is closed," he rasped. His walrus breath struck me like a blow. For a moment, the years fell away. I thought he was going to tell me to fasten my jacket. But the damage was quickly repaired by three plus points—a nearby bar, a drink and a New Russia smile.



The Cathedral of Annunciation in the Kremlin

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Retracing the historic small-boat journey in somewhat greater comfort we cross to South Georgia as our historian tells the story of the epic achievement. South Georgia is one of the world's natural wonders - 'the Alps in mid-ocean', offering remarkable concentrations of shoreline wildlife against a backdrop of glaciers and snow covered mountains. Our landfall is Grytviken, where we visit the abandoned whaling station, once the hub of the South Atlantic whaling industry and pay homage to Shackleton's grave. Hugging the coast to the wildest reaches of the island we land on beaches alive with rampaging juvenile Fur seals, somnolent Elephant seals and truly astonishing numbers of King penguins, both adults and furry chicks. There will be Sooty albatrosses and Wandering albatrosses on top of their nestmounds while the young of previous seasons will be going through the preliminaries of courtship. The beaches of South Georgia are a delight, home to a couple of million fur seals and five million Macaroni penguins.

Finally we visit the Falkland Islands, to enjoy lush tussock vegetation and find Black-browed albatrosses and Rockhopper penguins, before returning to thread our way through the Beagle Channel and disembark at Ushuaia for the flight home.



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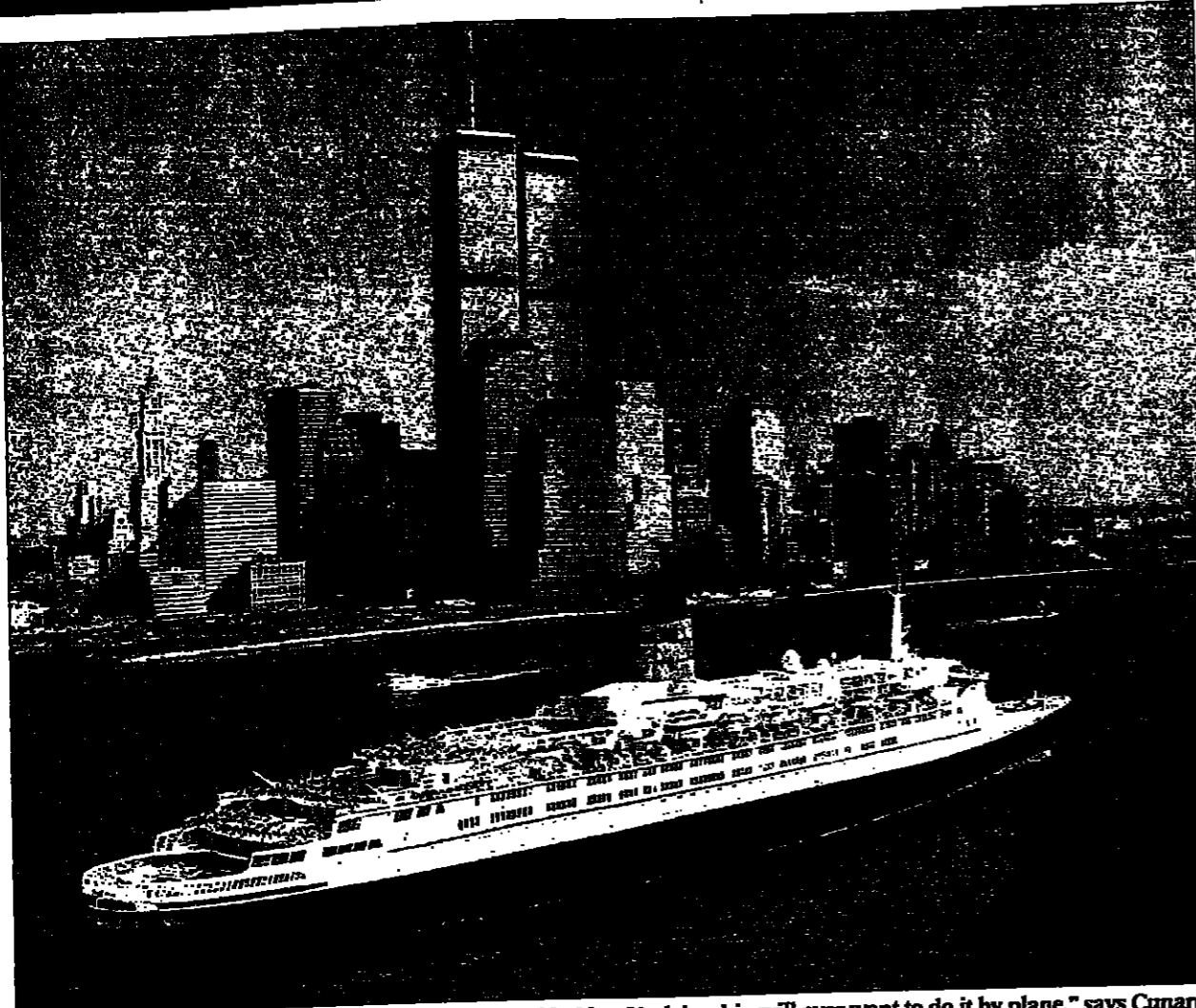
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MOSCOW FACT FILE

- Getting there: Trevor Fishlock travelled with Steppes East (01285 810267) which offers tailor-made itineraries to Russia. A three-night break to Moscow including return flights from London on British Airways, accommodation at the Ukrainiya Hotel, transfers and two and a half days with an English-speaking guide and driver is £970 per person in July. Week-long combined tours of Moscow and St Petersburg, including flights, accommodation, guide, driver, entrance fees to attractions and train from Moscow to St Petersburg cost £1,475 per person based on two sharing a room.
- Cafes and restaurants: Pomodoro, 2 Bolshoi Golovin Perulok (007 095 924 2931). The Russian Pogrebok in the Marriott Grand Hotel, 26 Tverskaya Street (935 8500). Buffet at Hotel Baltchug, Ulitsa Balchug (230 6500). Starlite Diner, 9 Ulitsa Korovy Val (230 3268).
- Red tape: Visas from the Russian Embassy in London (5-6 Kensington Gardens; tel: 0891 171271, premium rate), cost £10. Alternatively many tour operators will organise a visa for between £20 and £40.
- Further information: There is no longer a Russian tourist board, but many operators such as the former state-run Intourist are well-informed (0171-538 8600).
- Tips: Changing currency on the black market is risky; stick to banks or official exchanges. US dollars are widely accepted and it's safest to take travellers' cheques. Change money each day as required rather than carry wads of roubles. Try to blend in.
- Reading: Moscow and St Petersburg (£14.99, Cadogan City Guides), Russia, Ukraine and Belarus Travel Survival Kit (£16.95, Lonely Planet), Moscow (£8.99, Rough Guides).

TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD



The QE2 greets Manhattan. "No one who has arrived in New York by ship will ever want to do it by plane," says Cunard

High style to New York

STILL the only ship offering regular transatlantic sailings (about 20 a year), the *Queen Elizabeth 2's* crossings from Southampton to New York were lengthened from five to six nights last year to allow her to sail further south to avoid bad weather. She also now has fixed arrival and departure times.

"No one who has arrived in New York by ship will ever want to do it by plane," says Eric Flounders of Cunard. The most popular transatlantic QE2 package — one way by sea, the other by air — costs from £1,400 for lower deck inside cabin, to £11,710 for a top suite. For more information contact Cunard (01703 716500).

Arctic route

IT WAS in 1893 that the SS *Vesteralen* made her maiden voyage up the Norwegian coast, thus pioneering the coastal steamer route that has been called "the world's most beautiful voyage".

More than 100 years later, steamers still leave Bergen for the 2,400-mile round trip into the Arctic Circle to Kirkenes, six miles from the Russian border. The ship sails every

day of the year, through the midwinter storms to the midnight sun.

The trip takes 11 days with 34 ports of call where the steamers may be the only regular lifeline, delivering everything from post to potatoes. The ships also carry up to 700 passengers, including holidaymakers and also locals who are returning home. Between March and October there are tourist guides on board running excursions: whale and dolphin spotting are at their best during the summer months.

A variety of packages are available from Britain, including mini-voyages, half-voyages and land-and-ship holidays. The 11-day round trip with return flights to Bergen, full board on the ship and a night in Bergen costs £1,185-£2,985.

Intravel (01653 628811) also offers three nights on the steamer with four nights' half-board in a *rorbu*, a fisher-

VOYAGES by Jill Crawshaw



TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

man's cottage in the Lofoten Islands, for £777-£872 (including flights).

Other tour operators include Scandinavian Travel Service (071-559 6666) and Color Line (0191-296 1313).

THERE is a choice of ships on the popular banana boat routes, but be warned: places are in high demand and you may have to book a year or more ahead. Geest Line's ships, which sail weekly from Southampton, are the real thing: on their 25-day round trips to the Caribbean, they take spare vehicle parts, tyres and other general cargo out, returning with their load of fruit, using spare accommodation to carry up to six passengers. Ports of call can include St Kitts, Guadeloupe, Dominica, St Lucia, Barbados, St Vincent, Trinidad and Grenada. Life on board is informal with no entertainment, and the passengers dine with the British officers. The price is from £2,250.

Flyfes' weekly 28-day services from Portsmouth call at Flushing (New York), Big Creek in Belize, Puerto Cortés in Honduras and Waterford in Ireland before returning to Portsmouth. Passengers can sleep over in Belize to see the Mayan ruins, before returning home on the next boat.

The cost is £1,850 and there are no single supplements. More information is available from Cargo Ship Voyages (01473 736265).

Mail lifeline



THE last of the long-distance Royal Mail ships, the RMS *St Helena*, is the only regular link with the rest of the world for the 6,000 inhabitants of the Atlantic island, a British colony since 1659 and Napoleon's last place of exile. It has no public transport, no banks and no beaches, but there is excellent walking in the hills.

RMS *St Helena*, operated by Cunard Shipping Line (01326 214666), makes four voyages a year from Cardiff with ports of call that include Tenerife and Cape Town. She carries 128 passengers and has a small pool and a library. A package which includes the 14-day voyage to St Helena, two nights' half-board on the island, five more days at sea and two nights in Cape Town, plus return flight, costs from £3,156 per person.

Or there is the once-a-year round trip, also on RMS *St Helena*, from Cape Town to Tristan da Cunha, 2,000 miles from the Falklands and the loneliest inhabited island in the world. Only 300 people live there, with just seven surnames between them. The next voyage leaves Cape Town on January 17, 1999; a 17-day package with flights to and from Cape Town, overnight accommodation and the voyage will cost £2,621.

IN 1996, *Star Flyer* was the first clipper to navigate the Suez Canal from the Mediterranean to

the Indian Ocean — able to do so because her auxiliary engines can maintain the eight knots speed necessary for travelling in convoy. But it was the opening of the Canal in 1869 that helped to kill off the "greyhounds of the seas", the clipper ships that used to carry tea, wool and grain. Totally reliant on sails, they could not compete for speed with the steamships that were able to use the Canal short cut.

Today's clippers are built to carry passengers rather than cargo and are endowed with every mod con, as well as 36,000 square feet of billowing sail. They pass through the Canal twice a year, in April and October, transporting passengers from Athens to Phuket (Thailand), calling at Sharm el Sheikh, Aden, Muscat, Dubai, Sri Lanka, Cebu and Goa. The 35-night Phuket to Athens voyage costs from £2,500-£3,500, and passengers can take eight or 15-night segments of the trip, if they wish.

Star Clipper, Star Flyer's sister ship, also makes 21 and 28-night voyages in May and October between the Mediterranean and Caribbean, calling at Cannes, Malaga, Las Palmas and Antigua. The 28-night Cannes-Antigua voyage costs £1,840-£4,030. Flights are not included but can be arranged. Further information is available from Fred Olsen Cruise Line (01473 292229).

Cargo trips

WOULD-BE Joseph Conrads, who want to see the world from the deck of a tramp steamer or take a slow boat to China, will enjoy the *Passenger Cargo Ships* brochure of Strand Voyages (0171-836 6363). More than 80 voyages are listed from 15 different companies. The shortest is a one-week round trip costing £445 from Felixstowe to Gdynia on the new German *Bremerzukunf* which carries four passengers along with her freight; the longest is the 130-day round trip to the South Pacific from Dunkirk on one of Bank Line's four vessels which carry 12 passengers. The cost is £7,580 which includes the fare to Dunkirk.

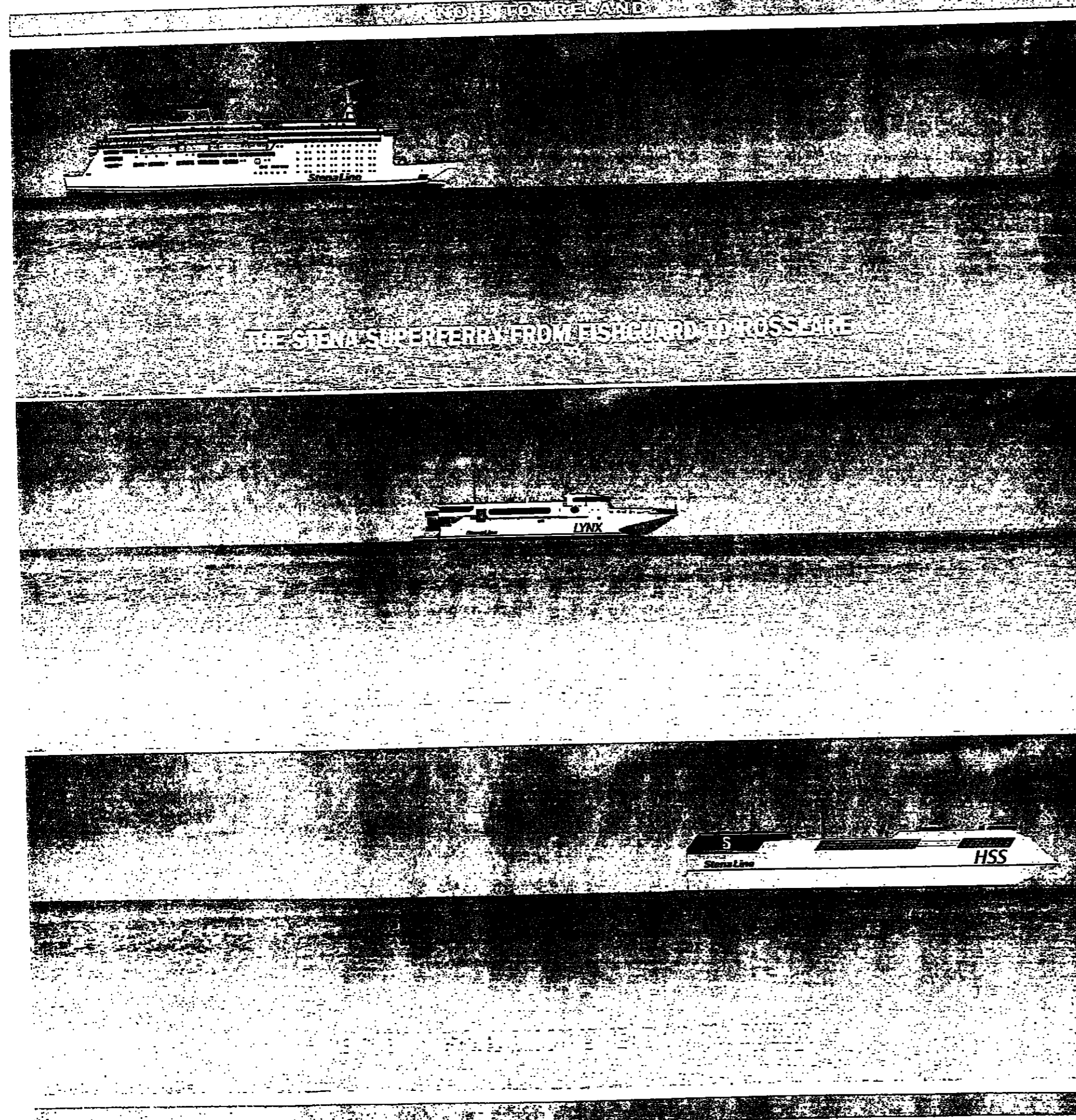
Yes, there are slow boats to China: a 64-day round trip with NSB of Germany on a ship carrying eight passengers from Thamesport in Kent and sailing via the Mediterranean, Suez, Singapore and South Korea to Shanghai and Ningbo in China, costs £4,265.

Standards of accommodation on cargo boats are high, with pools, libraries and meals shared with the ships' officers. But there is no organised entertainment, sailing dates and ports of call can be changed at a moment's notice, freight is the priority and voyages can get booked up years ahead.

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Star Flyer on the high seas



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Going crazy over Wayne's world



Wayne rears with co-star Maureen O'Hara

Georgina Wroe visits the Irish village cashing in on the Duke's cult following

Cong, a village in Co Mayo, is an unlikely spot for a Graceland-style cult based on one of Hollywood's greatest western film stars. Here, the only thing drawn in the saloon bars of the 400-strong village is a pint of Guinness, and though it is western, it is sleepy western Ireland rather than the wild west.

But cult there is, in the form of an army of John Wayne fans, carrying not Smith & Wesson, but video cameras. While most people associate John Wayne with stonions and gun fights, thousands of devoted fans believe his best performance was in *The Quiet Man* (1952) as boxer Sean Thornton, an Irish prize fighter who makes it big in the States before returning home to 1920s rural Ireland.

And Cong is cashing in. Residents are anxious to reinvent a tourism industry previously based on salmon and trout fishing, and are encouraging foreign visitors who want to see the film's original locations. The local cry is: "There's gold in them there *Quiet Man* crazies." ("Crazies" is the Cong nickname for the visiting Wayne fans.)

Record numbers are expected at this year's *Quiet Man* festival later this month that, for the first time, will include a midsummer costume



John Wayne knuckles down as Irish prize fighter Sean Thornton in the 1952 Hollywood blockbuster *The Quiet Man*, set in Cong

ball as well as the annual John Wayne lookalike contest. There are also plans to find the perfect Maureen O'Hara double (Wayne's feisty red-headed on-screen love), and in 2001 tourism development head Paddy Rock hopes to reshoot a film scene.

"That's the 50th anniversary of the making of the film," he says, "and we hope to erect a huge scaffolding set for an audience who will see the scene shot at first hand. We would use the winners of the lookalike contest and we hope it will be an international affair."

The story behind Cong's success is so unlikely it reads like the plot from an Ealing comedy. A quiet Irish village is jolted into life when 1950s Hollywood uses it as a set for a film that is so widely expected to

flip that it is financed on the understanding that its entire cast shoots a western afterwards to make up forecast losses. But the film becomes a blockbuster and 40 years later (boosted by the visit to Cong of Maureen O'Hara devotee, President Ronald Reagan) it has become one of the most sought-after videos in the world.

Some Cong locals had bit-parts as extras and have become minor celebrities. Until his death last year at the age of 74, "crazy" tourists queued to listen to tales from the set from the Duke's stand-in, local publican Joe Mellone.

Joe was 28 when he was picked from a line-up of eight other locals by the star and director John Ford to play Wayne's stand-in. Star-struck Americans were charmed by

his lilting Irish brogue and his tales of delivering 200 Camel cigarettes a day to Wayne, and how he taught the tequila-sipping star to drink Irish whiskey at the wrap party.

Despite Joe's death, the revivalists are still going strong. *The Quiet Man* Hotel screens the film every night it's on a loop during the festival. Proprietor Gerry Collins says: "It's a gold mine, and too few people understand the potential of what we have here."

Last year, Mr Collins and his wife Margaret financed a £250,000 heritage centre styled on the cottage, White O'Morn, that was Wayne's home in the film. Their 16-year-old daughter Lisa, who started the first *Quiet Man* tours

when she was 11 and can recite the entire film, is curator.

Up the coach-crammed road, at the Quiet Man Coffee Shop, 35-year-old Sean Gibbons has plans. "Next year, we are hoping to start acting out a few scenes from the film," he says. And his pal Patrick Lusk, son of one of the original film extras, wants to buy the cottage used in the film, 14 miles from Cong, and to restore it to its former *Quiet Man* glory.

So what is it about the film that caused one American woman to break down in tears in the heritage centre when I visited, forced management at the five-star Ashford Castle hotel to stop playing it at 7pm because no one came to dinner until it finished, or causes 25-year-old Canadian Michelle Horth, who

I met at the centre, to watch it three times a week? Michelle, who came to Ireland from Ontario to visit Cong, says: "It's a fantastic romantic comedy. It's better than *Gone with the Wind*. It's Wayne's best role."



The shops and pubs in the centre of Cong leave you in no doubt about the significance of the film to the village

CONG FACT FILE

- Getting there: Irish Ferries (0990 17177) has return Holyhead-Dublin crossings from £19 for a car and up to five people. Ryanair (0541 569569) offers flights to Dublin from Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds, Newcastle and Stansted from £49.90. Holiday Autos (0990 300400) has a week's all-inclusive Group A car hire from £189.
- Quiet Man Festival: This year's festival, including the John Wayne lookalike contest, starts on June 26 with the Quiet Man midsummer ball in Cong. The dress code for men is waistcoats, caps and breeches and for women it is pinafores and bonnets. Entry is £6 and there will be food, dancing, a showing of the film and a parade of John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara lookalikes. Information on 00 353 92 46 155.
- Quiet Man Heritage Cottage (02 46 089) shows video documentaries about the film as well as old costumes and newspaper clippings. Entry £2.30 (adults), 90p (children up to 14). There is a shop selling *Quiet Man* memorabilia including T-shirts and videos.
- Further information: The Cong Tourist Office (02 46 542) has lists of local accommodation and details of Quiet Man attractions.

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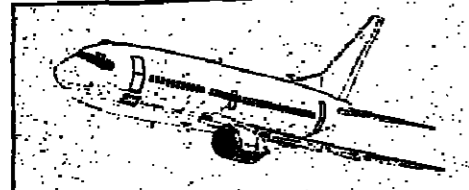
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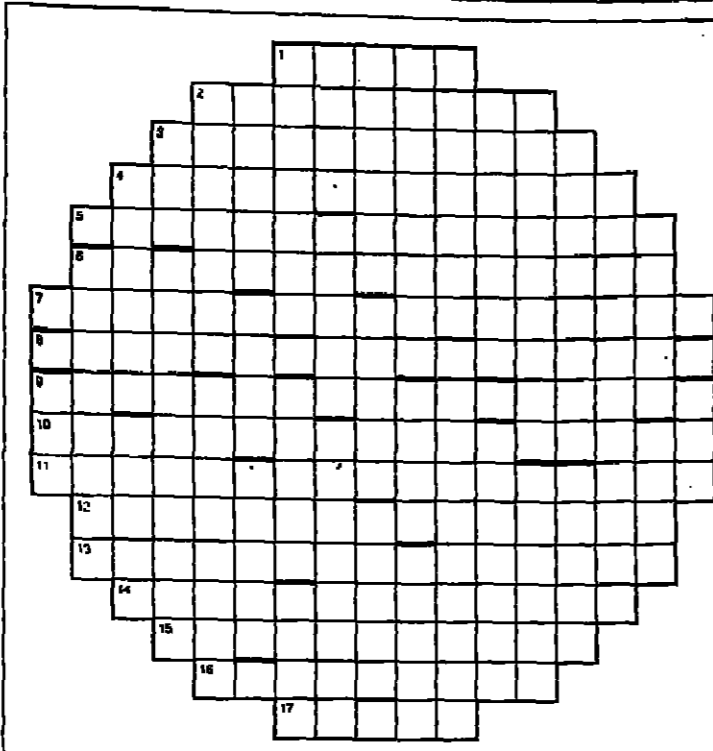
THE SUNDAY TIMES. Tel: 0171 481 1989.

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0171 481 1989

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3466: F-Fools by Franc



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3466 in association with Waterstone's

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3466, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, June 25.

Waterstone's logo and promotional text: 'The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10.'

ON A number of occasions, a character in a solution set in a row must be replaced by a character (always the same one) provided at the point of replacement by an intersecting down light.

ACROSS

- 1 Warrant, as deposited in court (5)
2 Cheerless members order lagers (5,4)
3 Spices mischievous allies angrier feelings in writs (5,5,7)
4 Fish measure — fight large beam, necessarily game! (4,5,4)
5 Caribbean fruit oils pertain to small Gann. 1 pledge 'Emblem is law' (7,6,6,5)
6 Antipodean dock labourer punished old galley granks. Peruse wee oged' fable ornament for excess (7,6,7,4)
7 Found bird at disco in squat. See lodger reverse old ruler by military force (10,5,7,7)
8 Salami technique to besiege old Nablus's a burden for Moses in lecture (5,6,6)
9 Cavalry HQ — stop here for steeds most free (6,5,6)
10 Stressed lizard stumps stage — cast met in decay — wicked place of debauchery (8,6,7,4)
11 Swindle? Mine came by later as steep juice of cucumber (4,5,5)
12 The Rake's Progress: grope below a lime tree ere turning legend, say, to issue (5,5,4,2,4)
13 Scots blood of gut (from central abdomen) — real (CI) genes expert gathering (4,5,3,4,3)
14 Plough handles last as knights make dresses for wares (6,7)
15 Treats one as a plant oil (chiefly rose) (6,5)
16 Room to plait a long fern leaf, so heat to fix on colours (5,6,4)
17 Arrogant sons make mean fellows (5)

DOWN

- Declares everyone cut top off grasses (8)
The last word about deep thought tends, without purpose, to produce distractions (10)
Prime republic missing backward French elder (3)

- Autocrat finds rising tide in Capri or Monterey, say (6)
Cloaks father in inverted pouch (5)
Singer dispenses with gold in slogan (5)
German women accommodate the French inhabitants of North Yorkshire perhaps (8)
Conquer, overthrowing the French plot (5)
French of intermediate estate (7)
Does old Spot set about second? (4)
Restrained — about right for drunk (7)
Plagued interminably? Relax (4)
Stop doctor appearing in Listener! (5)
Work is first seen thrown about by powers (8)
Georgia attempts, with some interference, measurements of gas (11)
Hangs on gallows tom-cats with stake through heart (7)
Owns up — some awesome humility initially required (6)
Oddly lie on loose muslin fabrics (5)
Mother conceals spy? Colourful result (7)
Payments advanced in small measures (5)
Creator can form a keratin layer, partly (5)
Round some wild cat (5)
Worst? My curse (4)
Runner having power to turn up for examination (6)
Take plunge and start again (5)
Barker half-heartedly backs recompense (5)
Pickle plants sprout around America — Saskatchewan primarily (8)
Ships lose time for deliveries (7)
Winds buffeting Swedish Rosie might be the (8)
Draws drink with a hint of Martini in America, say (10)
Bunting is right in ships (9)
Covers for heads of the aggravatingly militant Scots (4)
Number clear up (3)
Bird accommodates two thirds of regiment at the back (6)
This bird has appeal in first half of year (4)

Word search grid with letters and a list of words to find: SC, HUB, ART, LUNG, EP, D, G, NOT, A, DOO, J, S, A, I, N, E, R, I, H, E, R, L, I, N, G, A, E, L, A, L, E, V, I, R, A, E, D, U, L, L, I, N, O, S, A, T, S, E, A, F, F, O, R, U, L, A, W, T, P, P, H, N, N, O, C, K, R, T, V, R, A, R, E, T, E, S, T, R, E, I, T, H, O, U, Y, L, B, R, O, S, N, E, T, T, L, O, Y, O, C, H, L, A, F, H, E, L, L, E, S, E, M, E, I, K, A, T, C, L, E, M, S, L, E, B, U, R, N, G, E, S, B, H, Y, L, I, N, E, I, N, E, M, B, V, A, H, S, L, I, U, B, R, A, D, E, O, S, E, W, E, N, E, N, O, U, S, E, E, L, S, I, N, O, S, E, I, G, A, L, L, S, A, D, I, T, T, A, K, Y, A, N, E, W, D, E, A, L, S, C, H, U, B, E, R, T

Solution and notes for No. 3463 Trout Quintet by Nibor. THE puzzle contained a quintet of trout-related features: 1. Omitted letters spell piano, violin, viola, cello, double bass — the five instruments in Schubert's Trout Quintet; 2. Five clues had T and R omitted (TR-OUT) from one word in the definition but the answers were entered normally (18a coup/ corrupt, 40a saves/starves, 59a bee/better, 60a out/ trout, 60a Mae/matter); 3. In five normal clues T and R were omitted from the answer (14a strainer/saine, 17a rutter/ rale, 53a trouser/ouse, 36d thrashers/hashes, 54d turtle/ ule); 4. Five unclued lights consisted of types of trout; 5. Five unclued lights contained three elements of the poem which Schubert set to music: 'Die forelle: 1st line: In einem Bachlein hell; and author (GV) Schubert (not Schubert)'

BRIDGE by Robert Sheehan

IN DOUBLE DUMMY problems you are shown all four hands. The world's leading expert on the subject is an Englishman, Hugh Darwin, and I am indebted to him for his assistance with this article. Darwin has been the doyen of the genre ever since the death of Commander Ernest Pawle in 1966. The problems are concerned only with cardplay and emerged from the game of whist in the 19th century. The famous 'Whitfield Six', which I gave in the daily column last autumn, first appeared in Double Dummy Bridge by Ernest W. Bergholt, which was published in 1906. The early problems were mostly 'miniatures' (endings of less than ten cards) and many of them can be shown to be situations that cannot possibly arise by legal cardplay from an original 13-card deal. Although most composers see no objection to such positions — a puzzle is just a puzzle, after all — modern problems are usually full deals, to which anybody who is lucky enough to have a copy of Darwin's Bridge Magic (Faber and Faber, 1973) can easily attest. Darwin tells me that Ernest Pawle, the most prolific composer to date, contributed a puzzle for The Times every week over at least two decades. The following example, which, as it happens, was also Problem No. 1 in Bridge Magazine (August 1949) is one of Darwin's favourites. He cites it as the work that first drew him to the subject when he saw it in 1961; he spent an entire weekend working out the solution.

WORD ANSWERS section with answers to puzzles from previous pages, including 'SLENDANG', 'TZOLKIN', and 'SOMATEN'.

CHESS by Raymond Keene

Chess article by Raymond Keene discussing a game between Garry Kasparov and John Nunn. Includes chess board diagrams and analysis of moves like '1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 c4 Bg7 4 g3 0-0 5 Bg2 c6'.

WINNING MOVE section by Raymond Keene discussing a chess position and a winning move for White.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES by Tim Wapshott

Computer games and pastimes article by Tim Wapshott. Includes a photo of an early computer and discusses the history of stored-program computers and modern games.

NEW SOFTWARE THE AWARD-WINNING Natural Wonders of Australia CD-Rom

Advertisement for 'Natural Wonders of Australia' CD-Rom, highlighting its educational content about Australian wildlife and nature.

SOLUTION TO JUMBO CROSSWORD 169

A large crossword puzzle grid with the solution filled in, including words like 'RATECAP', 'DESCENDER', 'OSTRICHES', 'STRANGERS', 'SINGAPORE', etc.

games

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Q My husband and I have received vouchers for the Royal Enclosure at Ascot for the first time, and although the official paperwork gives some indication of how ladies should dress, I would be grateful if you could give my husband some advice. — Name and address withheld.

A Your husband is required to wear a morning coat and a top hat. Although both black and grey are acceptable, a black coat and a matching black silk hat are considered more distinguished than a grey outfit at present. If your husband is able to lay his hands on an old-style hat made from silk plush he will be first in the fashion stakes. The outfit is completed with a grey, buff or cream waistcoat, a women's silk tie, lace-up shoes (not slip-ons) and, to be absolutely correct, a detachable stiff collar with the shirt.

Q We have in our social circle a friend who is active in arts and crafts as a semi-commercial hobby, and who uses what he produces, whether greetings cards or handmade wear, as presents at birthdays, Christmas and Easter. What annoys me and my wife is that everything we receive has attached or stickered to it a label advertising his skills and services. Are we being unreasonable? — J. Whittingham-Boothe, Harlow, Essex



A No, you are right to be cross. Your friend is obviously overwrought with the network marketing bug, and is harrasing commercial considerations with social life. He cannot reasonably expect items given to you, and which are now your property, to be confused with samples displayed in a shop or gallery. I would remove the offending stickers without delay and should he complain, exclaim with a beaming smile: "Oh, we thought we'd better take them off. We don't want to be charging you a commission, do we?"

Q My husband and I have been invited to an outdoor evening concert at Sherborne Castle. Our hosts will supply the "bubbly" and we will provide the supper. This will be a first for us so we are uncertain as to the type of menu. We shall be only four in number. — Jill Harris, Yeovil, Somerset

A Keep your menu as simple as possible. It is better to serve beautifully prepared, honest and fresh food than an elaborate dish which might end up looking like a road accident. The choice of food should be traditional: salmon, asparagus, fillet of beef, lobster, chicken would be ideal. Puddings should be strawberries, raspberries, a mixture of seasonal

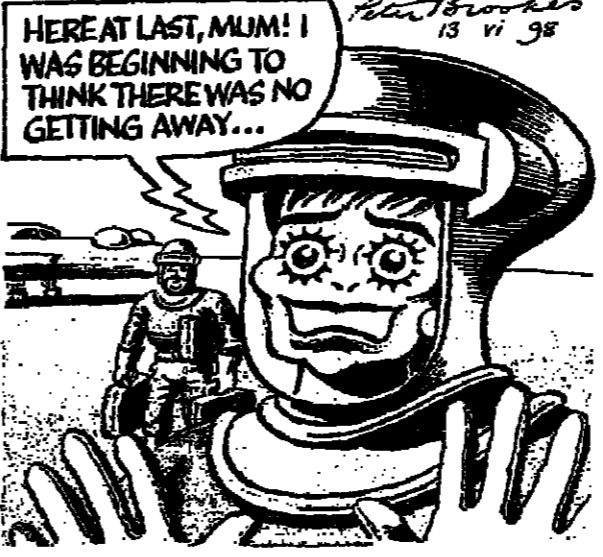
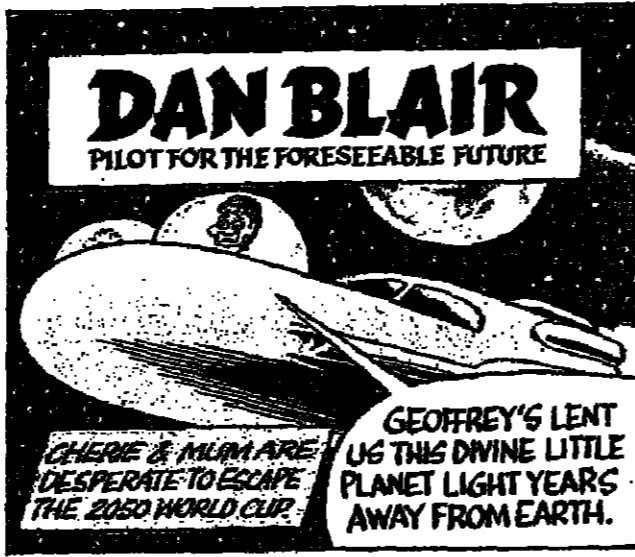
berries, or a home-made dish, such as a fruit tart, which will travel well. Take a large flask of coffee and remember to include cups. Do not forget to pack real china, silver, glasses and proper table cloths and napkins. Other essentials include salt, pepper, mustard, a bottle opener, lots of kitchen roll and a large plastic bag for rubbish.

Q My daughter and I have recently completed her 18th birthday party invitations. I told her that although the actual invitation was addressed to "Mr and Mrs —" the envelope should be addressed only to Mrs —. She thought this was stuffy and old-fashioned. Her opinion prompted me to think that very rarely these days do we receive an invitation or reply in this mode. In fact I caused offence to a gentleman friend who felt "left out" of a recent invitation. Am I still correct or have things moved on? — Diane L. Pugh, Stowmarket, Suffolk

A This convention has not moved on for those who do things correctly. The joint form of address appears only on an invitation card and never on an envelope, which should be addressed only to the wife in her capacity of a married woman: i.e. Mrs John Smith.

Q I would be grateful if you could settle a difference of opinion that I have with my wife. When we have guests for dinner they invariably bring gifts such as bottles of wine and after-dinner nibbles or chocolates. My wife insists that these should be put aside and not used during the evening. Her argument is that it would be presumptuous to do so, almost as if we were relying on our guests to complete the meal. I take a different view. I think we should tuck in and sample all that is presented. It may be that they had chosen their offerings with care and would be disappointed if they were not able to try them. Also, giving the impression that we were waiting until they leave before scoffing the lot seems rather mean. How do you see the situation? — Name and address withheld

A Hosts are under no obligation to serve anything that their guests bring. The secret of successful entertaining is to have all elements of a party in place, without counting on possible donations by guests. On the other hand, spontaneous exceptions that will bring pleasure to those present can be made. For instance, should a guest arrive bearing a special little extra that would make an exquisite embellishment to the evening, then it would be a sin not to share it. John Morgan is associate editor of CQ



WORD WATCHING

by Philip Howard
SLENDANG
a. A wild dance
b. Cross-country marching
c. A long scarf

TZOLKIN
a. Sweet vegetable casserole
b. A snow ladder
c. A calendar

SOMATEN
a. A growth vitamin
b. Vigilantes
c. A man-eating goddess

TONARI GUMI
a. Neighbourhood watch
b. Lime pickle
c. A poltergeist

Answers on page 35

TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene
"SINCE the dawn of civilisation, some 10,000 years ago, history has recorded that men and women have been games players. The earliest writings of ancient civilisations make reference to games similar in concept to draughts, chess and crosswords. As a civilisation progressed, so did the complexity of its games." — Tony Buzan, chairman of the Brain Trust Charity

The second Mind Sports Olympiad, which includes chess, bridge, crosswords, creativity, memory, speed reading and IQ, among its disciplines, takes place at the Festival Hall in London from August 24-30 (website www.mindsports.co.uk)

Question 1
Who wrote and where?
"The petrifications of a plodding brain"

Question 2
If (Venus + Earth) x Neptune = 40, how much is (Jupiter - Mercury) x Pluto?

Answers on page 35

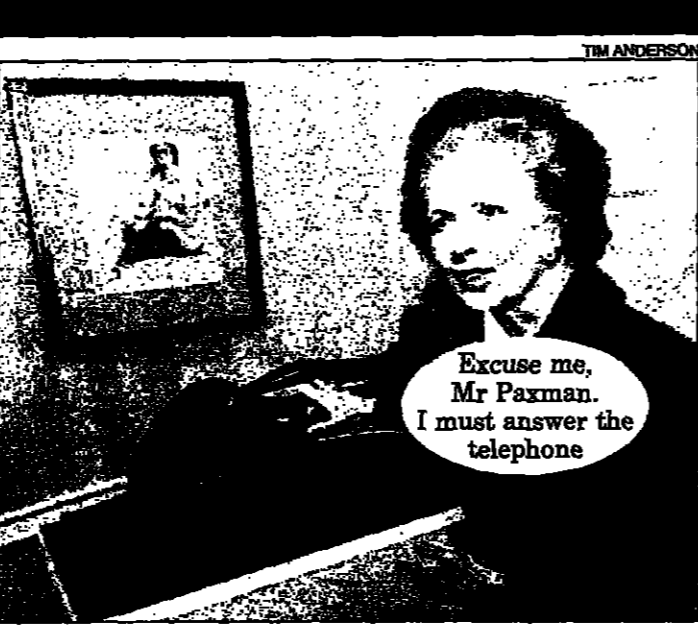
CROSS WORDS

by Michael Rich

The news that *The Times* intends to hold another national competition this year reached me in time to arrange a heat in Leeds (2pm start) for those from the North, in addition to two heats in London. Of course, this is not ideal but, without a sponsor, costs for running such an event become prohibitive. At least this year we have preliminary events to select those who will go through to the national final on the last Sunday of the Mind Olympiad, to be held at the Festival Hall, incidentally. I recently provided the logistics and puzzles for a crossword event at the African Mind Sports festival in Kenya. Unfortunately, that was also an unsponsored

event, so they could not afford to fly me out to take charge personally — I would have liked to visit Nairobi. Those submitting the qualifying puzzle will have noticed that we do not require the dreaded stamped addressed envelope this year. Instead, we will welcome all entrants, but those with an eye on the national final must ensure their qualifying entry is correct. Imagine the chagrin of being a potential national finalist only to be disqualified by an incorrect qualifying puzzle. I hope that all competitors are also readers of this column, as I am using it to give further information about the championship. Because of the tight budget, we will not be able to provide some of the usual courtesies, such as free tea or coffee at the events, or overnight accommodation for national finalists. Also, as we have to be included within the Mind Olympiad, it is unlikely that we will find room for spectators at the national final. We regret such restrictions, but feel confident that the desire of some kind outweighs such considerations. I look forward to seeing old and new friends alike in Leeds and London, pencils and brains finely honed.

The writer is co-editor of the Listener Crossword and organiser of The Times Crossword Championship.



PICTURE LINE

READERS are invited to suggest what was said when Prince Andrew met two Scottish synchronised swimmers.

This picture will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send your "speech bubble" suggestions — only on postcards, please — with your name and address to: PictureLine, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The Editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, June 17. Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by Ian Cameron, of Frodsham, Cheshire.



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"We are not going to be lectured on tax affairs by tax exiles. The sight of ageing hippies on a tax scam telling the Chancellor what to do is not on." — Government source after the Rolling Stones cancelled a British tour because of budget tax reforms

"She was my girlfriend." — Sir Paul McCartney at the memorial service to his wife Linda at St Martin-in-the-Fields

"I don't think Hoddle is known for his dress sense." — Paul Smith, designer of the England squad's controversial suits

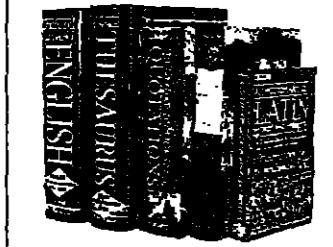
"After God, comes football in Brazil." — Footballer Pele on Brazil's industry closing down during the World Cup

"The moral responsibility has to weigh heavily on the consciences of all historically sensitive Germans." — German Foreign Ministry note apologising for a massacre of thousands of men, women and children in Herero, Namibia, in 1904

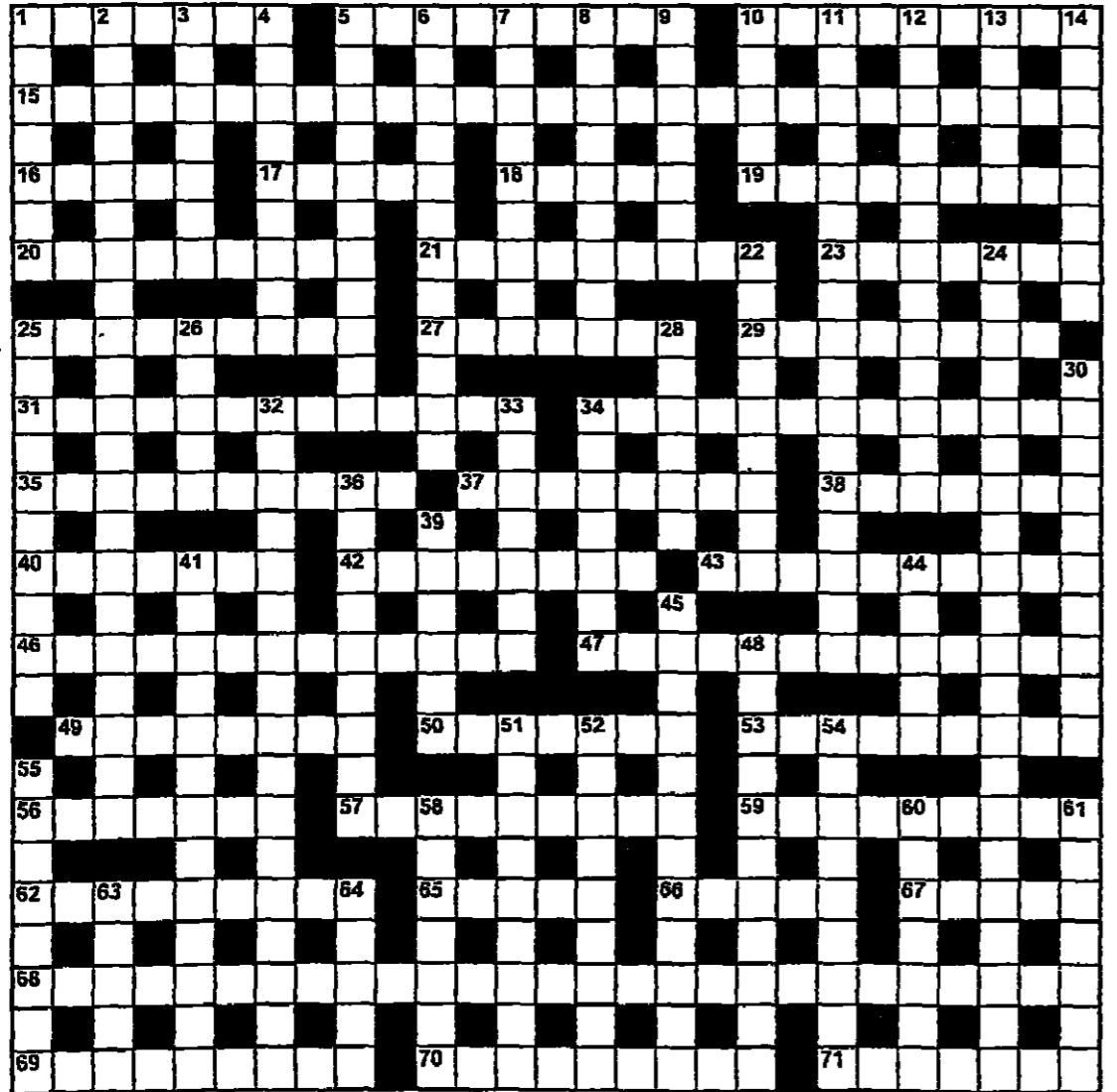
"We have a committed relationship but we haven't married. We want to set this straight because we've started getting wedding presents." — Film-maker David Furnish on rumours that he has married Sir Elton John

"Oh my God Charles, it's the Captain." — Reema Mahabeer, 23, when caught apparently in flagrante delicto with company director Charles Watkinson, 51, on Flight SA233 from London to Johannesburg

JUMBO CROSSWORD 170



The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be a collection of five Oxford University Press titles, the world's most trusted reference books, valued at more than £100. Included are *The Oxford English Reference Dictionary* and *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Quotations*. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 170, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Thursday, June 25. The name of the winner will be published on June 27



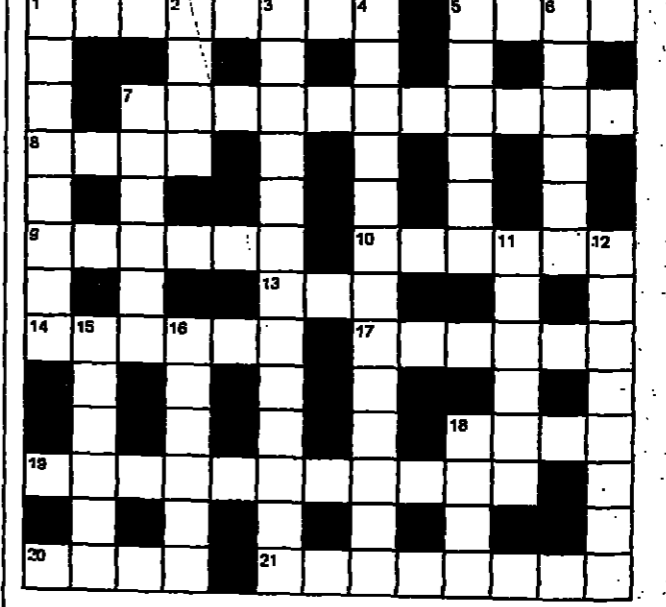
ACROSS

- Weapon injured girl (7)
- Oberon, perhaps, suppressing Fairy's smoking (9)
- Activity that could produce title and cash (9)
- Overdramatised and spoil transformation scene (4,1,8,3,2,1,8)
- Called police about the missing husband (5)
- Narks, also known as snouts (5)
- Consecrate bishop of lower rank (5)
- Rejected extra hot type of acid for another (9)
- Swimmer — he's on film swimming (9)
- Tree producing pale-coloured wood (9)
- Figure twelve worn by horse (7)
- Fools and I see climb differently (9)
- Adjust equipment and then set out (7)
- Shortage of boxes — it's unknown (8)
- Treat elephant with resolution to get shiny skin (6,7)
- What you might win at golf and football is secret (4-3-6)
- Tongue-tied Mr Durward — "The Spanish love cycling" (10)
- Near a very quiet fish (8)
- Concentrated on decimal point (7)
- Axe I throw back into tree (7)
- Put into schedule commercial for car (8)
- Pastry lid (4-3-3)
- Other than in marriage, Albert is no great shakes (13)
- Following end of debate, are we in the right? It's of little consequence (13)
- Troubles of people detected in wrongful acts (9)
- A complex character in Greek mythology (7)
- This rogue isn't, but could be made so (9)
- 'Entry resorts to goads to control elephants (7)
- This is often linked with ashes after fire is worsted (9)
- Choppin' food up to be covered in flour is therapeutic (9)
- George wants a complete state, not a portion (9)
- Craig has trouble with it (5)
- Bones forming part of, perhaps, a cranium (5)
- Present in unopened box (5)
- Work one's fingers to the bone — and a feature too (4,4,2,3,10)
- Yes — in a way, garments are most insubstantial (9)
- Out east, some change, possibly — into this? (9)
- Harry, hero of classic western, carries nothing (7)

DOWN

- Pass round some mineral that's funny (7)
- Seize the opportunity to grab Father's kiss-curl (4,2,2,3,8)
- A group of musicians performing in desert (7)
- Behave amorously and caress bird (9)
- Yank's sensation of motion, floating in the skies above America (11)
- Tory whips are going all out — very commendable! (12)
- French nursemaid raised Erica — that's raising (9)
- Acclimatisation of posh engineers in pub takes a little time (9)
- Tongues with smooth sound (7)
- Collect featured in a service (5)
- Fishing equipment assembled altogether (4,4,3,6)
- Get the measure of a Jumbo with this plant (9-4)
- With heads exposed, it's chillier in every respect, much colder (5)
- Anthem interrupted by 100,000 (and one) cheering (8)
- Facial hairs in South America after curling are cut (9)
- Join project early, and prepare to be upfitted (3,2,2,3,6,5)
- One police state almost due for official approval (10)
- Part of poem consists of pious platitudes on love (5)
- Drain in big building United Nations put up (6)
- Adjusts one's attire, somewhat flustered (10)
- Two exclamations in reserve, to conceal one's amusement (5,2,4,6)
- Rest of parables broken (7)
- Emphatically lady's body is levitating, without a sign of hesitation (7)
- Being self-regarding — that's a bloomer (9)
- Oddly bragging, I go into house of ill repute (6)
- Benefit from pomp countries displayed (6,7)
- Still finer threads available therein (5)
- After the ideal radio parts (4,8)
- Tearaway section of pop group total vehicle's interior (5-6)
- After 31 days I start to take in money from abroad for volume (9)
- Hormone gets commoner on stage forgetting exits (9)
- Confounded fellow following sun-seeker up (9)
- Cheek's explanation for nonsense being talked (8)
- 1,000 guineas perhaps, or 100 pounds given to fool in charge (7)
- He had enormous wealth obtained from dubious sources (7)
- Leonard heartlessly arrests a Catholic for theft (7)
- Man entering race with a Greek character (5)
- A belief in forgotten ethics (5)

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1431

- ACROSS
- Transparent, limpid (8)
 - Powder; do some housework (4)
 - Secret, furtive (11)
 - Cure (4)
 - Light wind (6)
 - Applies (force, effort) (6)
 - Stick; 5 1/2 yards (3)
 - Scot, chequered design (6)
 - Fighting Temeraire artist (6)
 - Heavy book (4)
 - Without ending (Lat.) (2,9)
 - Salesman's exaggeration (4)
 - Not any more (2,6)
- DOWN
- Ban (8)
 - Sprawl on seat (4)
 - Reaction of alarm, panic (13)
 - In best party clothes (7,2,4)
 - Serility (6)
 - Piece of verse as eg *Ozymandias* (6)
 - Run headlong (6)
 - Dictated by chance (6)
 - Wizard (8)
 - In hungry fashion (6)
 - Sudden sharp pain (6)
 - (One's) go (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1430
ACROSS: 1 Kaiser 5 Steely 8 Fret 9 Squeeze 10 Supremo 11 Gnash 13 Disgruntled 16 Scrip 18 Siogapap 21 Permeate 22 Oboe 25 Rescue 24 Regent
DOWN: 2 Aground 3 Sitar 4 Rosemary 5 Slub 6 Eternal 7 Lcess 12 Knitwear 14 Seismic 15 Dragon 17 Crêpe 19 Prong 20 Case

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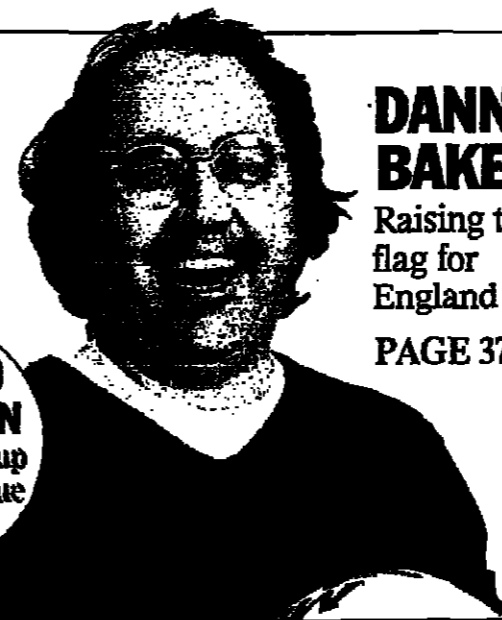
ROYAL APPOINTMENT

Clare Balding takes up the reins at Ascot
PAGE 43



SMART ALEC

England's captain brings a dash of daring to the job
PAGE 40



DANNY BAKER

Raising the flag for England
PAGE 37

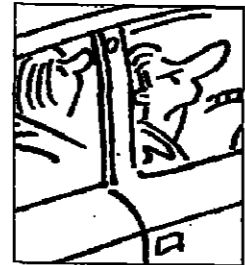
£50,000 TO BE WON
Play World Cup Fantasy League
PAGE 30



WEEKEND MONEY

GAMBLING: FINDING THE BEST BET

PAGES 62-63



80

WHY CAN'T MEN ADMIT WHEN THEY'RE LOST?
PAGE 49

THE TIMES SATURDAY SPORT 14 PAGES

JUNE 13 1998

FOUR DAYS ON AND THE STARS BEGIN TO SHINE IN FRANCE



Moments of magic: Marc Rieper, left, heads Denmark's winner against Saudi Arabia yesterday, while Roberto Baggio and Marcelo Salas, goalscorers, rivals and friends, share the spoils after Chile's draw with Italy



Peter Schmeichel celebrates Denmark's victory

Feast leaves fans on top of the world

Russell Kempson looks at the moments that have stolen the World Cup's opening stages

IT STARTED in bizarre fashion, with hordes of little green men and women running around the pitch of the Stade de France during the opening ceremony in St-Denis. Flowers emerged from the canvas, blossoming in the sunlight; the World Cup had taken root. Four minutes into the first game, between Brazil and Scotland, César Sampaio headed the first goal of the tournament. Scotland equalised through a penalty from John Collins but were cruelly denied a deserved draw when Tommy Boyd deflected the ball into his own net. Symbolism, drama and a hard-luck story: all on the first day, all in the first game. France 98 kicked off with panache, a touch of pathos, too, and the subsequent two days have provided similarly warming moments that augur well for the long road ahead. Ronaldo, of Brazil, the world's leading striker, was not at his best. Romário, his partner, had been sent home in tears earlier in the week after failing to recover from injury. Bebeto, his replacement, gave little support. Instead, Ronaldo toiled, worked hard for the team. In isolated flashes, though, the magic returned. The ingenious run, taking him past two, three and four Scottish challenges, the nonchalant dummy, allowing the ball to roll free to a team-mate. He will return, invigorated and

inspired, as Brazil surely wend their way to the final. They next play Morocco in Nantes on June 16 - a fixture that had perhaps previously failed to intrude on their senses. Not any more, not after Morocco's impressive 2-2 draw with Norway in Montpellier. Group A, apparently, is a lot more open than the pundits had predicted before the tournament. Moustafa Hadji, the Deportivo La Coruña forward, scored the opening goal for Morocco and stole most of the attention for his direct running, ponytail trailing behind him, at the often static Norway defence. A toe injury will not prevent him from facing Brazil. "I will be ready," he said yesterday. "I will not miss the game." Henri Michel, the Morocco coach, is ready, too. "We are giving this match all the importance it deserves," he said. "Brazil will not have an easy time getting past our strong tactical players." On Thursday, Marcelo Salas, the Chile striker, staked his claim for the leading goalscorer prize - the Golden Boot - with both goals in the 2-2 draw against Italy in

Bordeaux. His odds to claim the title were immediately slashed from 50-1 to 4-1, reflecting the nervousness of the British bookmakers. For Nelson Acosta, the Chile coach, it also proved to the world that his team were able to take on the best sides and hold them. "We feel quite satisfied with what the team achieved but we're not happy or ecstatic because we should have won," Acosta said. "The players showed we don't just have great attackers." Salas shared his views. "I'm very happy, relaxed and maybe a little surprised," he said. "But I'm not completely happy because we didn't take three points." Italy, outplayed for much of the game, snatched a draw courtesy of a late, dubiously awarded penalty. Roberto Baggio at least showed he had recovered from his miss in the 1994 World Cup final, in the shoot-out against Brazil, when he calmly scored.

It earned him a tribute from no less than Sophia Loren. In her role as ambassador-at-large for the city of Rome, to promote fashion in the Eternal City, the actress met with the media yesterday to present the high fashion schedule for next month. She admitted that she had watched the game against Chile with "trepidation" and that she would have readily given Baggio "a big kiss" had she been able to. No World Cup is complete without a previously unheralded player emerging into the spotlight and, on Thursday, it was Pierre Njanka, of Cameroon, who took on the mantle, scoring a marvellous goal in the 1-1 draw against Austria in group B after a 40-yard run that left several defenders bemused. "It was wonderful but I'm planning to score an even better one before the tournament ends," Njanka said. "The second I got the ball I felt I had to go forwards and take responsibility. At about 25 metres out, I knew I was going to score. I could feel it." Two months ago, Njanka, 23, was playing for Olympique Yaounde, a small club in Cameroon. Claude Le Roy, the national coach, spotted him on a recruitment visit to the country but swiftly drafted him into his squad. It is the way of the World Cup: Njanka may drift back to oblivion soon afterwards, but he will always be remembered.

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THE WORLD CUP TODAY PAGE 38
Spain v Nigeria (1.30 BBC) South Korea v Mexico (4.30 ITV) Holland v Belgium (8.0 BBC)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Bradley's suspension overturned on appeal

By Christopher Irvine

GRAEME BRADLEY, Bradford Bulls' Australian captain, overturned a one-match ban imposed by the Rugby Football League (RFL) disciplinary committee on Thursday night in a successful appeal hearing yesterday.

His sending off against Warrington Wolves was deemed sufficient punishment by the appeals committee. Bradley had been dismissed for using a forearm on John Duffy, the Warrington scrum half, as he went into the tackle in the match last Sunday.

Bradley's subsequent suspension by the disciplinary committee and a £250 fine had incensed Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach. "The more I looked at it on video, the more I was confident there was no use of the elbow. It was his forearm and hand," he said.

"How often does a forearm come into contact with an opponent's head? It happens once a set of tackles, not once a match. I give due notice that whenever one of my players gets struck on the head by a forearm, I'll be making a note of it and asking the league to look at it."

The loss of Bradley after 20 minutes at Warrington contributed to the Bulls' third defeat of the season, but his availability at short notice for the home match against Wigan Warriors last night was one piece of good news for the champions in a week soured by a succession of injuries to key players, including Shaun Edwards.

The disciplinary procedure is an area up for discussion at the next Rugby League council meeting on June 24. Super League clubs have protested to the RFL that the disciplinary committee should meet on Tuesday rather than Thursday evenings to avoid cases of eleventh-hour withdrawals of players from matches because of suspension.

In Australia, Robbie O'Davis, the Newcastle Knights international full back, must undergo further tests after elevated levels of a naturally occurring hormone, which can be associated with use of steroids, were found in a sample.

He recorded unusually high levels of epitestosterone and is now required to provide another three samples for scientists at the Australian government analytical laboratory to assess his natural testosterone level. Depending on the results, he could face a two-year suspension.

O'Davis, a late inclusion in the Queensland State of Origin side for the deciding match of the series against New South Wales in Sydney on Friday, has never before recorded a positive test. He is the first player to show a positive result for something other than marijuana and pseudoephedrine since the National Rugby League reviewed its penalty code on performance-enhancing drugs at the start of the season.

Leeds seek advice on Shark tenacity

By Christopher Irvine

UNDER the revised play-off format in the JJB Super League, there is no prize for finishing first. The last time Leeds made such an emphatic start to a season, in 1966-67, the side had to settle for a trinket called the league leaders' trophy, after they lost early in the top-16 knockout for the championship.

The curse struck the following year and again in 1969-70. Leeds did manage to finish first and win the play-offs in 1968-69 and 1971-72. Nonetheless, memories stretch back far enough at Headingley to appreciate that the Rhinos' present leadership of the Super League, which they have occupied since April, is not in itself a means to an end.

Timing is of the essence. A clutch of sides outside the top five still have every chance of advancing to the play-offs in October. Unlike the championship knockout, the new system is more even-handed. As Hull Sharks have lost their past seven matches, there are few grounds for optimism that they will be the ones tomorrow to arrest the best start by a Leeds side since 1966: they are now two matches short of equalling an 11-match unbeaten run at the beginning of that season. Not that Leeds enjoy the best of records at the Boulevard, where they have won on only six of their past 30 visits.

The Threepenny Stand is at its most vociferous for encounters against Leeds, for which Graham Murray, has sought advice for his first trip. "It will be a tough encounter and I know that it's an intimidating place, but I've spoken to Dean Bell (his predecessor as coach) and he told me it always used to be a bit like that," Murray said.

Paul Starling, a former Hull wing, makes a first return to the club where his career began late after he joined from Bradford and Bingley rugby union club, five years ago. Brad Godden (groin) and Marcus St Hilaire (knee) are rated doubtful by Leeds. Marvin Golden is available after his loan spell at Bramley to slot into the threequarters. Marc Glanville has rib damage and Anthony Farrell makes way in the pack for Adrian Morley, with Jamie Mathiou brought onto the bench. With Jamie Smith injured, Hull are hoping that Graeme Hallas will be fit to assume the goalkicking.

After being dropped for two matches, Bobbie Goulding is on the St Helens bench for the visit of London Broncos. Salford Reds will attempt to trigger their start-stop season by ending Halifax Blue Sox's undefeated home record without Peter Edwards for the first time in three years. After 84 successive appearances at hooker, Malcolm Alker, 19, has been chosen ahead of Edwards.

The British Amateur Rugby League Association Great Britain tour party departs on Monday for the all Aboriginal tour of Australia.

Woodforde's defeat of Sampras overshadowed by Briton's injury



Forehand foremost, Henman strives for another winner against Ivanisevic on his way to the Stella Artois quarter-finals. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Rusedski's hopes hang in balance

By Julian Muscat Tennis Correspondent

Greg Rusedski's Wimbledon dreams hung by the finest of threads last night after the British No 1 damaged his left ankle in a nasty spill at Queen's Club in London. The tournament doctor last night described his prospects of making the event, which starts a week on Monday, as "less than fifty-fifty."

A quarter-finalist at Wimbledon last year, Rusedski was taken to Cromwell Hospital in Kensington, where a scan revealed he had a severe sprain of the ligaments on the outside of his ankle. After two or three days of complete rest, he will then undergo intensive physiotherapy and the Wimbledon decision will almost certainly be made on the eve of the tournament.

If he does fully recover, Tony Pickard, Rusedski's coach, maintains that the setback would not seriously compromise his Wimbledon prospects. "I am not that worried," Pickard said. "Greg's grass-court preparation was going so well and he is mentally refreshed. He is ultra-positive about everything he does and he was that way just before he went to hospital."

Nevertheless, Rusedski's misfortune ensures that he will be short of match practice if he makes it to Wimbledon. He has already been ruled out of the Nottingham Open, which starts on Monday, and he has played just seven matches in as many weeks after a poor sequence on clay. For a man who positively thrives on winning, Rusedski's chances are receding.

It was obvious from the moment he fell, 17 minutes into the match, that Rusedski was in trouble. One moment he was lunging to his right to play a backhand volley; the next he lay prostrate, clutching his injured ankle after slipping to the ground. His cries of pain alarmed court-side spectators who had seen him reach 2-2 against Laurence Tierlemans, a Belgian-born Italian.

Rusedski lay flat on his back for several minutes before he was helped to his feet. He was unable to support himself on his left leg and was assisted from the court.

Hopes had been rising that Rusedski, world-ranked No 4, could become the first British man to triumph at Wimbledon since Fred Perry gained the last of his three victories there 62 years ago. His aggressive game was valued by Corals who rated him the 9-1 second favourite behind Pete Sampras, the defending champion.

A beaten finalist at the US Open in September, Rusedski was similarly unfortunate when contesting the ATP World championship in Hanover six months ago. He was struck down by a hamstring injury when contesting his opening match and was forced to withdraw from the \$3.3 million event.

Ironically, Rusedski injured himself on a day when the courts were dry. He survived a three-set match on Thursday, when the courts were resurfaced with an ice-rink due to persistent drizzle. But Pickard attributed Rusedski's slip entirely to misfortune. "There was nothing wrong with the court surface," he said.

The injury to Rusedski overshadowed a day of upsets at the Stella Artois championships. Sampras, the top seed, appeared unperturbed by his same exit at the hands of Mark Woodforde, of Australia. It was a lacklustre effort from the world No 1, whose form this year has been poor. This was his first loss in 11 matches against Woodforde, seeded No 15.

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Omens favour beaten Krajicek

From Alex Ramsay in Halle

According to the cliché, a bad dress rehearsal makes for a good performance. Working on that theory, Richard Krajicek should be on course to regain his Wimbledon title after a miserable quarter-final display at the Gerry Weber Open here in Germany, losing to Magnus Larsson, of Sweden, 6-4, 6-2 yesterday.

He had come here hoping to get his serve-and-volley game in working order only to find his plans scuppered by the weather and the draw. His practice schedule was ruined by a week of rain and, playing two baseliners in the opening rounds on the covered centre court, he had no opportunity to hone his attacking tactics. When he faced Larsson, who has a good service, an effective return and a neat volley, he was out of sorts and looking decidedly rusty.

The Krajicek service, normally fired as if from a rocket launcher, was missing the mark and once Larsson had spotted the weakness and started whipping returns past Krajicek, there was no chance to put away the second shot. When the No 3 seed did make it to the net, his volleys were awry. Larsson's patience paid dividends in the tenth game when, after missing his chance on his first break point, he set up the second with a backhand

return and converted it with a forehand.

"That was the key," Krajicek said. "When he broke me at 5-4 he picked up the pace. In the second set he was serving big and I wasn't playing so well. But when he had to break me he returned well."

"Today was a good day to practise for Wimbledon, but instead I got taught a lesson. It is a shame when I look forward to the next two weeks - or, I hope, three weeks. The way things are looking it will only be eight days."

Hendrik Dreekman, having beaten Boris Becker and Carlos Moyá to reach the quarter-finals, went out against Thomas Johansson 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.

STEFFI GRAF produced her most impressive tennis of the week to reach the semi-finals of the Edgbaston Classic in Birmingham yesterday. Graf, the No 1 seed, and playing her first tournament since suffering a hamstring injury in March, took 68 minutes to dispose of Magui Serna, of Spain, 6-4, 6-4.

The 28-year-old German broke Serna in the fifth game of the opening set and rarely looked in trouble on a court that has hardened and produced more bounce as the week has progressed.

Graf broke again in the opening game of the second set, only for Serna to hit back and take her opponent's serve. But Graf was in determined mood, her only slip coming when she double-faulted on her first match point.

"I expected to play only two matches at this event, but now I will play at least four and that is further than I anticipated," the former world No 1 said. "I have a little muscle soreness but otherwise I feel physically fine."

The seven-times Wimbledon champion will next meet Nathalie Tauziat, the No 3 seed from France, in the semi-finals. Tauziat had earlier raced through her semi-final against Kerry-Anne Guse, of Australia, 6-2, 6-3.

Impressive Graf goes further than expected

From Alex Ramsay in Halle

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GOLF

Brown closes on gold

By Patricia Davies

TWO Englishwomen, a Scot and a Frenchwoman will contest the semi-finals of the British women's Amateur Championship at Little Aston, Sutton Coldfield this morning, with the monstrous regiment taking over a course that, as a rule, follows the quaint tradition of barring women from the premises on Saturdays.

Fiona Brown, of Cheshire, engineered two energy-sapping comebacks, against Miriam Nagl, of Germany, and Christina Kuld, of Denmark, winning both matches at the 19th hole. She now meets Kim Rostrom, a fellow England international from Lancashire, whom she has beaten only once in 11 attempts. The other semi-final is between Hilary Monaghan, from Longmiddy, and Gwladys Nocera, from Vicby.

Brown, the Spanish champion, lost in the first round of the English championship two weeks ago and came here determined to rid herself of the nearby-but-not-quite-tag she was in danger of acquiring. Four holes down after six holes against Nagl, Brown was still three adrift with four to play but won the 15th with a birdie and drew level when the Brazilian-born German contrived to bogey the 16th and 17th. The 18th was halved in pars and Brown took the first extra hole with a par four.

Things were a little easier against Kuld, a former British women's strokeplay champion, who had beaten Elaine Ratcliffe, the reigning English champion, in the morning. Three down after nine holes, Brown found inspiration to turn the match on its head and found herself two up with two to play. The Dane fought back to win the 17th and 18th but lost the 19th to a par when the dogged Brown held out from 12 feet after both players had driven into the trees.

Monaghan, a 23-year-old accountancy and finance graduate of Heriot-Watt University, put paid to the Irish challenge, beating Suzanne O'Brien first, then Claire Dowling, the sentimental favourite who had surpassed all her own predictions by beating Karine Icher, the leading qualifier, in the third round. Dowling, 40, ran out of steam in the afternoon and Monaghan, whose caddie is Aran Wainwright, the men's English Amateur champion, needed only to play steadily to win the contest 5 and 4.

The superstitious Scot was sustained by a diet of brown bread tuna and sweetcorn sandwiches, cola and chocolate, and was determined to stick to that secret-success diet in her bid to follow compatriot Alison Rose as the British champion.

Results, page 42

Knighthood for Bonallack, the supreme administrator

John Hopkins on parting gift for R & A secretary, who retires in 2000

Michael Bonallack, the secretary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, went home last night to reveal to Angela, his wife, the contents of a letter he had received three weeks ago. The letter informed Bonallack that he had been recommended to receive a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

"I thought the letter was a hoax," Bonallack said. "And then I realised it wasn't a hoax and started to think: 'Why me? What about all the other people in golf? There are many more deserving than I am.'"

Bonallack, a reserved and modest man, did not dare tell anyone of the honour in case it turned out not to be true. "I haven't told Angela about it yet," Bonallack said, just before he left the R & A offices at St Andrews yesterday. "She'll be as surprised as I am."

Bonallack has been secretary of the R & A since 1983 when he was appointed to a job for which there had been 285 applicants. Prior to that he had served as chairman of the Professional Golfers' Association for six years, as chairman of the Golf Foundation and as president of the English Golf Union. The knighthood is a parting present. Bonallack will officially retire by the time of the Open Championship at St Andrews in July 2000. He will be 65 on December 31, 1999.

Though he described his swing as resembling "a drunk shovelling coal", Bonallack had a superb matchplay record. He won the Amateur Championship five times between 1961 and 1970, the English Amateur five times and competed in the Walker Cup on nine occasions, twice as captain, once on the winning side in 1971.

"He was an excellent matchplay golfer," recalled Brian Chapman, the former Walker Cup player, who was competing at Rye in the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society centenary celebrations. "I played him in the last eight of the English at Moorstown in 1962. Three times during our match I hit second shots that ended in greenside bunkers. Each time Michael hit his greens so that he played his third shot first and each time I had to concede his putt for a four before I had played my third shot. He put me under such pressure."

Since Bonallack joined the R & A 15 years ago and took over the famous office overlooking the 1st and 18th holes of the Old Course, he has become the best-known and most respected figure in the game worldwide. In a forthcoming article in *Golf International*, David Fay, executive director of the United States Golf Association says of Bonallack: "It is rare to find a champion golfer turning into an administrator in such a seamless manner. Michael made it look easy. He has been the outstanding administrator in the game."

Stewart enjoys more honours

AS WELL as the knighthoods for Geoff Hurst and Michael Bonallack, sport is fully recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours today. Alec Stewart, England's new Test cricket captain, is appointed MBE, as is John Barnes, the former England football international.

Major Dick Hern, who was the Queen's horse racing trainer, is appointed a CBE after a 40-year career in the sport. Hern, 77, retired in October last year. Athletics was honoured with OBEs for Linford Christie and Sally Gunnell, the former Olympic gold medal winner, and an MBE for Kelly Holmes, the 800 metres runner.

Lennox Lewis, the World Boxing Council heavyweight boxing champion, and Colin Montgomerie are appointed MBEs, the latter for his achievement in becoming the first golfer to win five successive European Order of Merit titles.

Other MBEs include Debbie Bampton (women's football), Isabella Campbell (cycling), Michael Dixon (skiing), Elizabeth Donnell (orienteering), David Holding (wheelchair sport), Alan Moorhouse (swimming), Anthony Nicholas (women's golf), Ian Ross (tennis) and William Walsh (rugby). Bill Slater, the former England footballer and now president of British gymnastics, is appointed a CBE for his services to sport.

THE TIMES

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WORLD CUP 98

Saudi Arabia undone by Scottish connection in gruelling group C game
Rieper lifts grim display by Danes

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| SAUDI ARABIA | DENMARK |
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| Rieper (68) | |
| (Lens, 28,140) | |

FROM DAVID POWELL
 IN LENS

THE Scotland connection gave Denmark victory, if not great satisfaction from the laboured nature of their performance, as group C got under way here at Stade Bollaert yesterday. Brian Laudrup, until recently of Rangers, helped break the tedium of a largely lifeless match with a cross which Marc Rieper, of Celtic, converted into a goal.

There could be no complaints from Saudi Arabia who, seemingly having forgotten how to score, made little attempt to regain their memory. Only once, twice at a stretch of the imagination, was Peter Schmeichel, the Manchester United goalkeeper playing for Denmark, called upon to rescue his team.

There was no Cameroon-style spirit of adventure from the Saudis, not even from Saeed al-Owairan, whose winner against Belgium in the 1994 finals was the goal of the tournament and delivered the shock of the first round. On that occasion, Saudi Arabia progressed into the second round, having lost their opening match against Holland, so they will not feel they are out of the picture yet.

Guided by Carlos Alberto Parreira, the Brazilian became the first man to sit on the sidelines as coach of four different countries at World Cup finals, having led Brazil to victory in 1994 and been in charge of Kuwait in 1982 and of the United Arab Emirates in 1990.

Saudi Arabia seemed uninterested in going forward until the need arose late in the game. Denmark had already produced a succession of chances when, after 41 minutes, Schmeichel was called to prove that he was still concentrating, having spent so much time as a mere observer. From



Brian Laudrup, centre, the Denmark forward, tries to evade al-Muwallid, left, and Zubromawi in Lens yesterday. Photograph: Oler Morin

a free kick, Sulimani hit the ball with pace and, though it appeared to be heading narrowly wide, Schmeichel was not taking any chances and dived across his goal to concede a corner.

If that proved unnecessary, there was no disputing the goalkeeper's need to come off his line on the stroke of half-time to cut out a cross from al-Muwallid which, had he not done so, would have found Amin unmarked running in towards the far post with an open goal before him.

For Saudi Arabia to have gone in with a goal advantage would have been unjust in the extreme. They had dominated proceedings without generat-

ing much in the way of excitement. No matter who seemed to try shooting for Denmark in the first half, the ball would go straight. Wieghorst's downward header into the path of Sand presented the best opportunity of the opening 45 minutes. However, al-Daeya, the Saudi Arabia goalkeeper, was sufficiently quick off his line to deny Sand a gaping target and the Danish forward, in trying to place his shot, fired over.

Michael Laudrup tried an ambitious volley from a corner, but it went well over. Wieghorst tried one too, from the edge of the area, but it was aimed so high that al-Daeya

did not even bother to jump. Then Jorgensen missed a clear-cut chance. Brian Laudrup found the gap between Zubromawi and Sulimani but Jorgensen's stinging shot lacked accuracy.

Al-Jahani, in the tackle, and Zubromawi, in the air, proved difficult men to beat. Both had impressed already when, after 26 minutes, Jorgensen put over a deep cross which Zubromawi cut out with Brian Laudrup poised dangerously behind. An awkward cross from Laudrup then forced al-Daeya to tip over.

Still Denmark tried to find a way through and, after 35 minutes, it seemed they had

succeeded. Rieper, however, with only al-Daeya in his way, struck the ball against the goalkeeper's legs. The second half began with Denmark resuming their position on the offensive.

After 58 minutes, the Saudi goalkeeper made a point-blank from Jorgensen after al-Khlaywi had fluffed his attempted clearance. Finally, though, the breakthrough came as Denmark, seeking to put behind the disappointment of Euro 96, when they failed miserably to defend their title, went ahead.

The goal was tidily set up and finished without fuss. Jorgensen, holding off the close attentions of al-Jahani,

played a short, low pass, with his back to goal, out wide to Brian Laudrup, recently signed from Rangers by Chelsea. Laudrup's first-time cross found the unmarked Rieper, who headed into the centre of the goal.

SAUDI ARABIA (4-1-3-2): M al-Daeya (4-1-1-0); M al-Jahani (4-1-1-0); M al-Balawi (4-1-1-0); A Zubromawi (4-1-1-0); H Sulimani (4-1-1-0); K al-Owairan (4-1-1-0); J al-Shanfari (4-1-1-0); F Amin (4-1-1-0); H Chabot; sub: H Saleh, al-Ahri, 78min, K al-Muwallid (4-1-1-0); S al-Jaber (4-1-1-0); sub: Y al-Thourayyan, al-Hadi, 85min, S Owarin (4-1-1-0).

DENMARK (4-4-2): P Schmeichel (Manchester United); S Cordig (Brandy); M Rieper (Celtic); J Hoegh (Farskaft); M Schoneberg (Kasars); sub: M Jorgensen (Lidkors); sub: Frandsen, Bolton Wanderers, 73min; T Helveg (Kjeller); M Wieghorst (Celtic); sub: A Nielsen, Tottenham Hotspur, 65min; M Laudrup (Ajax); E Sand (Brandy); B Laudrup (Chelsea); sub: J Holten, Sava Levofusen, 83min; Referee: J Casari (Argentina)

Bulgaria not inclined to grow old gracefully

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| PARAGUAY | BULGARIA |
| 0 | 0 |
| (Montpellier, 27,850) | |

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA IN MONTPELLIER

A MATCH that saw Bulgaria diminished by the sending-off of Anatoly Nankov after 88 minutes illustrated the process of deterioration as Hristo Bonev's side first excelled and then struggled to secure a goalless draw against Paraguay in the opening match in group D.

Even the greatest of nations lament the break-up of a great team because they know it may be a long wait before successors appear. Watching Bulgaria is a bit like attending a school reunion. The faces are recognisable, but the ageing process has been at work.

The team, with half a dozen of the starting line-up aged 30 or over, continues to resemble the one that reached the semi-finals of the last World Cup. Time has snatched away a few players but the core group remains, including, above all, Hristo Stoichkov.

At 32, decline should only just be starting. At first yesterday, it appeared that there were a few signs of faltering powers. His rejected appeals for a penalty, after he had crashed into Sarabia in the fourth minute, brought a tirade, but surely there would once have been a great deal more snap to the gesticulations.

It could just be that the veteran is now a slow starter. The rage was fully warmed up by the closing seconds of the first half. He was booked for a tackle that did at least reach the ball and responded by ranting at the man he had floored, Benitez. The degree with which Stoichkov is scrutinised, though, is its own tribute.

would make defeat inevitable for Paraguay.

In a demanding group that also contains Nigeria and Spain, such a lack of adventure is misjudged. Why come so far to risk so little? After the interval, at least, Paraguay managed to escape their inhibitions as Benitez and Campos finally began to lend wholehearted support to Cardoso, the lone striker.

Ivanov made a desperate clearance from Benitez and, in the 61st minute, Campos outstripped the defence and then misplaced his cut-back when in a splendid position. Paraguay were caught up in the contest, realising that victory was not, after all, an impossibility. To some eyes, they even appeared reckless.

European coaches would scowl at the thought of goalkeepers who advance to take free kicks at the edge of the opponents' penalty area, but the play acquires sense when the man in question is genuinely capable of scoring. So it was that the arrogant but gifted Chilavert drew the best



Chilavert: took aim

save of the game from Zdravkov, his opposite number, with a strong, curling attempt.

The free kick had been awarded for a foul by Ivanov on Campos that perhaps merited a red rather than a yellow card. The leniency was not to last, and Bulgaria did suffer the first dismissal of the tournament when Nankov received his second booking of the day.

Bulgaria had to settle for less than they would once have been prepared to accept. The ageing process has that effect on people.

PARAGUAY (3-4-1-2): J Chilavert (Norsk Sarfjord); C Gamarra (Corinthians); C Ayala (Pinar del Rio); P Sarabia (Pinar del Rio); sub: J Enkole (Internacional); R Acosta (Caranca, Olimpia, 42min); M Benitez (Español); J Campos (Ben Gurion, sub); J Yegor, Cruz Azul, 79; J Cardozo (Toucou, sub); C Ramirez, Sporting Lisbon, 70.

BULGARIA (3-4-1-2): Z Zdravkov (Santulussurgiu); A Nankov (Lokomotiv Sofia); T Ivanov (CSKA Sofia); I Jordanov (Sporting Lisbon); B Banev (Spartak); sub: D Borimirov, 1860 Munich, 75; A Kachichew (Bansgor); V Yanakov (Gospetrol); Petyo (Lidkors); L Lovchev; K Balakov (VFB Stuttgart); L Pancev (Compedia, sub); E Kirov (CSKA Sofia); Sela, 68; H Stanev (CSKA Sofia); Referee: M Alzaid (Saudi Arabia)

criticised by Julio Grondona, the federation president, a couple of months ago following a miserable defeat in Israel.

Batistuta remains unsettled by a dispute with Fiorentina, who are refusing to sell him. The 29-year-old went public with his differences this week in a crude attempt to force the club's hand, with Manchester United one of many clubs hoping to be the beneficiaries.

"Fiorentina are a great team but the club certainly isn't," Batistuta said. "In Argentina, everyone knows Manchester United but the only ones who have heard of Fiorentina are the people who follow me."

The world will be following him with anticipation tomorrow when Argentina begin their group H campaign against Japan. Expectation is high. Watching it somewhere will be Maradona and how fitting it would be if Argentina became world champions once more. World Cups are not the same without him.

Class of '98 determined to lay ghost of Maradona

Matt Dickinson examines the credentials of Argentina and says that Daniel Passarella's team can justify the faith of pundits

It may not just be the ghost of Diego Maradona that hovers over Toulouse tomorrow when Argentina begin the campaign that so many believe will end in World Cup triumph. Rumours that one of sport's most gifted, but certifiable, icons will be arriving as a television commentator sent ripples of excitement yesterday along the city's Garonne river. As is his unfaithful way, no one will know where Maradona will be until kick-off, probably not even the man himself, whose battle against drugs and demons still rages.

This will be the first World Cup without him since 1978, and he will be missed. After pouring glory and shame on football in equal measure for two decades, he is irreplaceable. At his first World Cup in 1982, his last kick was aimed at the most delicate parts of a Brazil opponent. In Mexico in 1986, he won the tournament almost single-handedly with a little assistance from the

Hand of God. He left in tears in 1990, having guided his side to the final, and left in disgrace four years ago when drugs, rather than talent, were coursing through his bulging veins.

Whether he would have been given the chance to live out such a colourful career under Daniel Passarella, the national coach, for these finals, is debatable. As disciplinarian a manager as he was a bone-crunching defender, the World Cup winner of 1978 would not have tolerated such antics. Fernando Redondo, arguably Argentina's finest player, sits at home this summer after a feud sparked by refusing to have his haircut, so goodness knows what Passarella would have made of the drugs, the shootings and the arrests. Of course, Maradona's gifts

have persuaded dozens of coaches to forgive him his sins and they would have been mad not to. He loomed over world football like a colossus. The feeling is spreading through France, though, that this Argentina squad may be ready to give their supporters new idols.

A 1-0 victory over Brazil in Rio de Janeiro last month has given credence to the idea that Argentina are poised to become the first South American side to lift the trophy in Europe, the continent in which so many of their players now earn their lucrative living.

One of that number is Ariel Ortega, who, with his mop of black hair, short stature and No 10 shirt, has been predictably saddled as Maradona's heir. His goal against

Cameroon lose their sense of adventure

FROM MATT DICKINSON IN TOULOUSE

THE carnival was going to have to end somewhere. It was just a shame that it had to be in Toulouse and involve a Cameroon team whose name still raises the pulse of every Englishman. The Africans still carry a reputation for reckless adventure but, as this World Cup will unfortunately show, it has long since been left behind by the more prosaic truth.

Cameroon are not a bad side, indeed they are far better than the Austria opponents whom they carelessly allowed to snatch a 1-1 draw in group B on Thursday night. In Pierre Wome, their teenage left wing-back, they have a rampaging defender with an outstep that was honed in the Roberto Carlos factory. The goal scored by Pierre Njanka was a finish of the highest calibre and proof, as he galloped the length of the pitch, of the Africans' extraordinary athleticism. Nor, however, are they

IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD

JOSE LUIS CHILAVERT (Paraguay)

Being the best goalkeeper in the world (in his opinion) is not enough for Chilavert. As well as repelling the Bulgarian attack yesterday he almost won the game with a curling 25-yard free kick. The colourful goalkeeper is a dead-ball specialist as 40 goals for club and country from free kicks and penalties testify. These exclusive Carling Opta statistics reveal his performance in Montpellier.

| SECURITY | |
|--|---|
| Goals conceded | 0 |
| Saves: shots from inside penalty area | 1 |
| Saves: shots from outside penalty area | 2 |
| Crosses caught | 4 |
| Crosses dropped | 0 |
| Crosses punched | 0 |
| PENETRATION | |
| Goals | 0 |
| Attempts on target | 1 |
| Attempts off target | 0 |
| Attempts blocked | 0 |
| Penalties | 0 |
| DISCIPLINE | |
| Free kicks conceded | 0 |
| Penalties conceded | 0 |
| Cards | 0 |

Minutes on pitch: 90

Rioch to manage Norwich

By Our Sports Staff

BRUCE RIOCH returned to football management at Norwich City last night and immediately revealed his plans to follow a continental blueprint at Carrow Road.

Rioch is joined by former Everton team-mate Bryan Hamilton as director of football and is looking to his Arsenal successor, Arsene Wenger, as the perfect example to follow.

"Arsene Wenger spends all his time with the senior players and I will be doing that here at Carrow Road," Rioch said. "Through the discussions I've had with the board, they've outlined the structure that is in place here at Carrow Road - with the youth policy and the academy - it's a structure in continental style."

"I think more clubs in this country are starting to take heed of the way in which clubs in Europe are running their football teams. And my job will be to come along and work with the senior players within the club."

"Going back four or five years, the manager would player myself and I've been involved with clubs where self-discipline hasn't been evident. But the great saying I've been brought up with has been: 'There is no I in teamwork. We must work together.' Rioch took ClubCall.

Barry Lockwood, the Norwich chairman, said: "We are delighted that both Bruce and Bryan have agreed to come to the club. We feel their appointments will create an environment of ambition within the club both in the dressing-room and the stands."

Michael Wynn Jones, the club owner who with cookery writer wife Delia Smith now controls 58 per cent of shares, added: "The vision all of us share is to make this club the very best in Britain."

"But now it's time to stop dreaming about past glories. We need to realise ourselves, to plan the best possible route to reach the summit of achievement in British football. We believe that we now have in place one of the most creative management structures in this country."

WORLD CUP 98

Neighbour thinks our name game is Crackers

Are you going to do that all through the entire match?

This challenging sentence, spoken by the wife of a neighbour, came upon me like a banger down the waistband on Wednesday. Up until that moment I had assumed everybody was enjoying the joke. True, it was a joke only I knew the reason behind and, if looked at squarely, was not a joke at all. It was a verbal tic, a Pavlovian response, a thoroughly annoying interjection. But until I had been pulled up on the thing, I'd assumed it was as necessary a part of the Brazil v Scotland game as the referee's whistle. Also — and here I think I'm right — everyone does it.

Everyone has one or two players who, upon hearing their names spoken during commentary, parrots back an appropriate phrase that jollies up the mention. For example, my present domestic favourite is Stuart Ripley, who whenever identified by surname only, simply has to be followed up with "Believe it or not". I mean, it just does, doesn't it? Thinking back as far as Nottingham Forest's Gary Crosby, I cannot recall a single occasion when the patter didn't follow thus:

Barry Davies: "Crosby... Me... Stills, Nash..."

What had sorely tried the patience of Joan — of Paul and Joan, from No 49 — was the number of times Dunga, the Brazil captain, had been involved in the action, thereby causing me to repeat "Hoonger-Doonger" every time his name came up.

Even passing fans of the Marx Brothers must be aware of the classic scene in *Animal Crackers*, where Groucho is dictating a letter for Zeppo, his secretary, to send to the law firm of Hungerdunger, Hungerdunger, Hungerdunger and McCormick. As Groucho is forced to illustrate several times, the name is correctly pronounced "Hoongerdoonger", and it would have taken a will of iron not to invoke this legendary handle as the play unfolded during the opening fixture.

After I was reprimanded over the repetition, there was a bit of a frost in the room and the ensuing utterances after his appearances on the ball were mealy-mouthed and virtually inaudible. Then at half-time — Joan being a nurse, leaving for her shift — the remaining

DANNY BAKER



chaps broke cover and rallied round. Women, it was agreed with a weary sigh and for the umpteenth time, for all the advances made in recent years, simply didn't appreciate the finer points at all. Of course you must have codes and habits. True, may be I had been a little injudicious in show-boating the extemporisation, but hauling a chap up over the habit was definitely not on.

It turns out that Steve follows each Le Saux with a "Saux What?", Paul does "Southgate — Gateway to the South", quite a few have not yet tired of following "McManaman" with "Do da da da da" from the Muppets song. Joey the Roofer loved the golden years of Paul Parker so he could intone "Yes M'Lady" at each touch of the ball, while John from No 44 lives for the spotlight on Norway so he can chime in "Ahi Coming your way!" And I have yet to meet the fellow who doesn't have his own variation.

However, for the comfort of the uninitiated, I shall keep all future ejaculations under my breath and, on behalf of shallow casual observers everywhere, I request that all similarly-conditioned supporters do the same. But I warn you, if Iran suddenly unveil a midfield player called "Pugh-Pugh", then no power on earth will halt the nationwide call for Trumpton's fire brigade, and that's that.

I'll love it if Keegan turns up volume

Is Kevin Keegan well? In his commentary on the exciting Italy v Chile game he sounded on the point of fading away. Somebody put a bomb under him and remind him this is live football, not grandmaster chess. Charitable friends suggested that he might be going for a little of the laid-back-and-inscrutable action that Des Lynan has going for him, others that he is seeking to pass himself off as Glenn Hoddle.

whose demeanour and delivery are coming more and more to resemble a Sussex police chief appealing for witnesses to a robbery with violence in Hastings town centre.

There was one typical exchange involving Keggy saying "that was a wonderful, wonderful movie", which, for all the world, sounded as though ITV had as its expert Hal, the treacherous computer from *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

Then again, maybe the Keegle man is humbly and publicly atoning for being on screen at all, what with the Fulham Thing being his most recent track record and all. Dig deep Keggy! Give us just a glimpse of the volcano that once rumbled out: "I tell you what — I will love it if we beat Man United to the title. Love it!" That's our boy! There are enough constipated deadbeats dampening down the coverage from France already.

Zidane is the symbol of nouveau France



Zidane: poor boy of mixed race who is keen to see World Cup joy unite a cosmopolitan France

The uncomfortable truth for France, as it fit the home fires to the *Coupe du Monde* last night, is that if the nation wins the World Cup it must honour sons of emigrants; and if it loses, many will revel in denouncing a perceived lack of commitment because the key players are not blessed with the purest Gallic blood.

The symbol of it all is Zinedine Zidane. He is slight, he is balding, and he moves with a deceptively hunched, shuffling gait. But this hides the quality of the man, disguises the balance that is almost balletic and the feet that move as quickly as intuition can guide the brain.

Alas for the French, Zizou, a sobriquet that makes it easier for France to say, is the son of Algerian immigrants. Almost as bad, he was born and raised in La Castellane, a district of Marseille that is pretty low on the social scale of things.

To you and to me, this may represent the beauty of sport. Football in any part of the world can lift a boy out of poverty to riches beyond his dreams. Diego Maradona, born into misery in Fiorito, a Buenos Aires shanty town, became, after Pelé, the symbol of this rise, though the upper classes of Buenos Aires now carp that the fall of Maradona was in his blood, his native Indian blood.

The French, too, look at Zidane with split vision. To one eye, he is the creator in whom a great partisanship will be invested. The farther France goes, the greater will become his profile, though it is already in lights on the banks of the Seine. But no

Rob Hughes on the multinational squad struggling to appease a true blue public

matter how much wealth he attracts, or how high the stakes rise, Zidane will be a hero only if the ultimate prize comes home to France.

Yet here in Marseille, a port of the utmost beauty scarred in places by depravity and crime, Zidane is the symbol of hope. His brother, Farid, still lives in the quarter where they were born and from where Nantes plucked Zinedine at the age of 13. Italy embraces talent, whatever its origin. France, with such dangerous support for the right-wing views of Jean-Marie Le Pen, that *Les Bleus* should be a team of true blue Frenchmen, is ambiguous towards such acceptance. This is remarkable given that Just Fontaine, still the tournament's record goalscorer with 13 goals at the 1958 World Cup, was born in Morocco, and Michel Platini,

the holder of the *Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur*, the equivalent to Geoff Hurst's knighthood, is the offspring of Italian emigrants.

Zidane was slayed the other day for saying to win is enough, that being booed from the field, as France was after a friendly in St-Etienne against Scotland, was unfair. "The fans expect something magical every time. It's impossible, but when we do not shine they say we are not wholeheartedly for the cause," he said.

He is far from alone. Bernard Lama, the reserve goalkeeper, was born and bred in Guinea. Lilian Thuram, the right back, has a mother from Guadeloupe, Marcel Desailly, the new Chelsea centre back, was born in Ghana. Bixente Lizarazu, the left back, is of Basque blood, Didier



MONDAY IN THE TIMES

Gary Neville reports on the mood in the England training camp in the final hours before the game against Tunisia

Lynne Truss continues her travels across France

Matt Dickinson watches Argentina launch their campaign



Rhymes and reasons: Le Saux and Dunga are just two names to conjure with when boys will be boys in front of the television

All in all, rather a beastly business

I had rather hoped that, once the World Cup had got under way, I had heard the last of heavenly help and hellish ritual invoked to further England's progress to the final. But the research of readers such as Steve Johns, of *Blackpool*, is bottomless and insatiable. I should be numb to twists like this latest finding, but

incredibly these things still excite me. This involves numbers again, so some readers might want a damp flannel or cool eye-mask on hand before continuing. Got it? Then here goes. If you employ the most basic code system, wherein A=1, B=2, C=3 and so on, and apply it to the perfectly likely England team of Seaman, Neville,

Le Saux, Campbell, Adams, Keown, Ince, Lee, Batty, Shearer, Ferdinand (1), you will end up with an accumulative number of The Beast 666. Please don't bother checking. I have and he is right (although, on my first sweep, I gave Shearer an extra "a" and wound up with 667: The Neighbour of the Beast).

Cardona is a referee to be reckoned with

Can we afford to have a Colombian referee in charge of games in France? I know we must all take the broad flexible view here and give the man the benefit of the doubt, but matters of football in Colombia are pretty much beyond all that. The Carrel really will kill you and your family if their betting slips don't deliver as arranged. The official concerned has the most splendidly Happy Family-style name of Mr Cardona.

Now I am sure Mr Cardona is a keen-eyed and thoroughly fair man. I am sure he is above suspicion and does, indeed, own his own cards. But if in the final seconds of Chile v Spain he gives, what upon replay, turns out to be a flagrantly bogus penalty, then will he not be under a good deal more suspicion than a regular standard issue official? Given past events in that unhappy country, would anyone blame him?

Indeed, does Mr Cardona even wish to be there? I should imagine the moment the envelope summoning him to France plopped through the door of his Medellin apartment, he was anticipating the midnight knock and hurrying the wife and children off to her sisters in Bolivia, complete with fake passports and false beards.

I notice he gives his full name as Arnango Cardona which, unless it is a clever red herring, is a dreadful mistake. At least some of his fellow and less threatened officials had the nous to hide behind just the one handle. Therefore, we have Gandour, of Egypt, and Wickramananga, of Sri Lanka. Batter, the linesman from France, and best of all, the referee representing Austria is, simply as Lenny.

Lenny the ref. Now there sounds like someone you could do business with...

Foreign Legion would test champions' worth

Anyone who spends most of the night-time hours competing with, swearing at and ultimately crying in front of the computer game *International Superstar Soccer* knows that it is the industry standard and, ultimately, the way the game will be universally played by ooh, 2010. They will also know that, when you have finally triumphed over the very best that the electric tournament can throw at you, a new hidden squad is revealed who then proceed to metaphorically take your shorts down at the moment of greatest glory.

After you have accepted this thrashing and are doubtless thumbing through the *Yellow Pages* to find a 24-hour glazier who might board up the window through which Mr Nintendo has recently passed, it suddenly strikes you that an extra surprise final is a crackerjack idea and might be just

what France 98 needs. For surely France, of all countries, would legitimately recognise the tantalising prospects held in a football version of that mysterious fighting entity, the Foreign Legion.

A team of disenfranchised football stars who were either rejected or knocked out of the tournament before the present hoo-ha and are now back, pissed off and ready to take on the so-called winners. Whether passed over, injured or excluded, I urge all readers to supply the best mercenary side NOT to be at the World Cup, one that will be good and embittered, fear no-one and play in a simple all-black strip emblazoned with the skull and crossbones. Simply by way of guidance and off the top of my head, I suggest Ryan Giggs, Juninho, Roy Keane, Romario, that Uruguayan full back I can never remember the name of, and yes, Paul Gascoigne.

Brits add touch of the bizarre in France

Who else noticed the Leeds United flag behind the goal when Italy took on Chile? British teams really do rule the world when it comes to rogue sightings where you'd least expect them.

I remember getting off a Greyhound bus somewhere in South Carolina at 2am in 1978. I had quite convinced myself that I had left Danny Baker behind and had finally brought myself to a state of grace somewhere between Jack Kerouac and Woody Guthrie. I had even begun to effect a hopeless Southern drawl which, along with hooded eyes, my sister's jean jacket and an unlit cigarette dangling from my defiant, seem-it-all lips, managed to put a crush out of two girls from the Gatesville,

Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday at 11.30am and 5.30pm

Virginia. Fizza Hut who were now travelling with us.

Making my way to what even I was now referring to as "the rest room", I seemed to have left the old me behind for ever. However, on flicking on the toilet light, I found myself overwhelmed by some unmissable graffiti that read "Man, City Kill Cockney W*****s".

Suddenly I felt far from home indeed and, what's more, I felt all the calling towards Millwall SE13 that General Robert E. Lee must have experienced after the first shots fired upon Fort Sumter. I emerged from those toilets a spent force, cool all gone to cock and speaking in a tongue that had our Virginia belles indignantly asking if I had been "Welsh all along". I was home and getting on with the 1978-79 season within a week.

Similarly, though less piquant, I was a few yards from the summit of Mount Vesuvius when the moment was shattered by an enormous spray painted "Peterborough FC" upon the living rock. I understand that Mr Fujiyama has a similar testimonial embracing Derby County at its most spectacular ridge.

"Never consider posterity when making a speech"

— Robert Merzies

Keeping count

Number of times Glenn Hoddle has said: "At this moment in time," since World Cup started: 5. Number of times Glenn Hoddle has said: "At this precise moment in time," since World Cup started: 2. Player almost certain to be sent off in next match: Windmill-limbed Rigobert Song, of Cameroon, a side that is, at times, no better behaved than Uruguay in the dark days.

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THE WORLD CUP TODAY

GROUP D

SPAIN v NIGERIA

FROM OLIVER HOLT

Morocco and Cameroon have already shown in their opening performances that the gap between African and European football is still closing steadily, but Nigeria, once thought to be the best of all their continent's hopes in this World Cup, are likely to find the going much tougher when they begin their campaign in the Stade de Beaujoire. Excluded from the African Nations Cup for political reasons, their preparations have been dogged by misfortune, ineptitude and injury problems. After a 1-0 defeat by Germany, a 3-0 reverse against Yugoslavia and a 5-1 drubbing by Holland, the confidence of the Super Eagles has dipped dramatically.

Added to that and the fact that they will have to start without the injured Daniel Amokachi, once of Everton, is the reality that they face a team picked by many as the best outside bet to win the tournament. Spain have prepared quietly and systematically, and the main problem facing Javier Clemente, the Spain coach, seems to be which of his lavish supply of strikers he chooses to play alone in the attacking system he favours.

Raul, the Real Madrid midfielder player tipped to be one of the stars of the tournament but whose form is uneven, is likely to start on the left, but that sole place in attack may go to Fernando Morientes, his club colleague and the man who has supplanted him as the golden boy of Spanish football. Morientes has scored four goals in his only two appearances for the national team. In defence, Spain are formidable, too, marshalled by Fernando Hierro, who did so much to nullify Alessandro del Piero in Real Madrid's European Cup final victory over Juventus. Celestine Babayaro, the Chelsea left back, may start for Nigeria, who expect much from Victor Ikpeba, the African Footballer of the Year.

SPAIN (probable, 4-1-1): A Zubizarain - A Ferrer, M A Nadal, R Alcaraz, Sergi - F Hierro - C Aguilera, J Etxebarria, Luis Enrique, Raul - F Morientes.
NIGERIA (probable, 4-4-2): P Rudez - I West, B Inoh, G Okpara, C Babayaro - F George, S Otiash, A Okocha, V Ipeba - N Kanu, R Yekini.
 Referee: S Baharmast (United States).
 COVERAGE: Television: BBC 1 (from 1.10pm). Radio: Radio 5 Live (from 1pm), Talk Radio (from 1pm). Kick-off: 1.30pm.

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Sunday July 12 | Final | 8pm | Stade de France | tba, R5L/Talk | FINAL |
| Saturday July 11 | Third-place play-off | 8pm | Parc des Princes | tba, R5L/Talk | THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF |
| July 9 & 10 REST DAYS | | | | | |
| Wednesday July 8 | Winner 9 v Winner 12 | 8pm | Stade de France | tba, R5L/Talk | SEMI-FINALS |
| Tuesday July 7 | Winner 10 v Winner 11 | 8pm | Marseilles | tba, R5L/Talk | SEMI-FINALS |
| July 5 & 6 REST DAYS | | | | | |
| Saturday June 4 | 11. Winner 6 v Winner 8 | 3.30pm | Marseilles | tba, R5L/Talk | QUARTER-FINALS |
| | 12. Winner 5 v Winner 7 | 8pm | Lyons | tba, R5L/Talk | QUARTER-FINALS |
| Friday June 3 | 9. Winner 1 v Winner 3 | 3.30pm | Stade de France | tba, R5L/Talk | QUARTER-FINALS |
| | 10. Winner 2 v Winner 4 | 8pm | Nantes | tba, R5L/Talk | QUARTER-FINALS |
| July 1 & 2 REST DAYS | | | | | |
| Tuesday June 30 | 7. Winner 6 v Runner-up H | 3.30pm | Bordeaux | tba, R5L/Talk | SECOND ROUND (KNOCK-OUT) |
| | 8. Winner H v Runner-up G | 8pm | St Etienne | tba, R5L/Talk | SECOND ROUND (KNOCK-OUT) |
| Monday June 29 | 5. Winner F v Runner-up E | 3.30pm | Montpellier | tba, R5L/Talk | SECOND ROUND (KNOCK-OUT) |
| | 6. Winner E v Runner-up F | 8pm | Toulouse | tba, R5L/Talk | SECOND ROUND (KNOCK-OUT) |
| Sunday June 28 | 3. Winner C v Runner-up D | 3.30pm | Lens | tba, R5L/Talk | SECOND ROUND (KNOCK-OUT) |
| | 4. Winner D v Runner-up C | 8pm | Stade de France | tba, R5L/Talk | SECOND ROUND (KNOCK-OUT) |
| Saturday June 27 | 1. Winner B v Runner-up A | 3.30pm | Marseilles | tba, R5L/Talk | SECOND ROUND (KNOCK-OUT) |
| | 2. Winner A v Runner-up B | 8pm | Parc des Princes | tba, R5L/Talk | SECOND ROUND (KNOCK-OUT) |
| Friday June 26 | Group H Japan v Jamaica | 3pm | Lyons | ITV | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group H Argentina v Croatia | 3pm | Bordeaux | ITV, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group G Romania v Tunisia | 8pm | Stade de France | BBC | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group G Colombia v England | 8pm | Lens | BBC, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| Thursday June 25 | Group E Belgium v South Korea | 3pm | Parc des Princes | BBC, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group E Holland v Mexico | 3pm | St Etienne | BBC, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group F Germany v Iran | 8pm | Montpellier | ITV, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group F United States v Yugoslavia | 8pm | Nantes | ITV | GROUP STAGES |
| Wednesday June 24 | Group C France v Denmark | 3pm | Lyons | BBC, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group C South Africa v Saudi Arabia | 3pm | Bordeaux | BBC, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group D Spain v Bulgaria | 8pm | Lens | ITV, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group D Nigeria v Paraguay | 8pm | Toulouse | ITV | GROUP STAGES |
| Tuesday June 23 | Group B Italy v Austria | 3pm | Stade de France | ITV, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group B Chile v Cameroon | 3pm | Nantes | ITV, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group A Scotland v Morocco | 8pm | St Etienne | BBC, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group A Brazil v Norway | 8pm | Marseilles | BBC | GROUP STAGES |
| Monday June 22 | Group G Colombia v Tunisia | 4.30pm | Montpellier | BBC, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group G Romania v England | 8pm | Toulouse | ITV, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| Sunday June 21 | Group F Germany v Yugoslavia | 1.30pm | Lens | BBC, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group H Argentina v Jamaica | 4.30pm | Parc des Princes | ITV, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group F United States v Iran | 8pm | Lyons | BBC, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| Friday June 19 | Group H Japan v Croatia | 1.30pm | Nantes | ITV, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group E Belgium v Mexico | 4.30pm | Bordeaux | BBC, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group E Holland v South Korea | 8pm | Marseilles | ITV, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| Thursday June 18 | Group D Nigeria v Bulgaria | 4.30pm | Parc des Princes | ITV | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group D Spain v Paraguay | 8pm | St Etienne | BBC, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| Wednesday June 17 | Group C South Africa v Denmark | 4.30pm | Toulouse | ITV, Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group C France v Saudi Arabia | 8pm | Stade de France | BBC, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| Tuesday June 16 | Group B Chile v Austria | 4.30pm | St Etienne | BBC, Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group B Italy v Cameroon | 8pm | Montpellier | ITV, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| Monday June 15 | Group A Scotland v Norway | 4.30pm | Bordeaux | ITV, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group A Brazil v Morocco | 8pm | Nantes | ITV, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| Sunday June 14 | Group G England v Tunisia | 1.30pm | Marseilles | BBC, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group G Romania v Colombia | 4.30pm | Lyons | ITV, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group F Germany v United States | 8pm | Parc des Princes | BBC, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| Saturday June 13 | Group H Argentina v Japan | 1.30pm | Toulouse | ITV, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group F Yugoslavia v Iran | 4.30pm | St Etienne | BBC, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group H Jamaica v Croatia | 8pm | Lens | ITV, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| Friday June 12 | Group D Spain v Nigeria | 1.30pm | Nantes | BBC, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group E South Korea v Mexico | 4.30pm | Lyons | ITV, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| | Group E Holland v Belgium | 8pm | Stade de France | BBC, R5L/Talk | GROUP STAGES |
| Thursday June 11 | Group D Paraguay 0 Bulgaria 0 | | | 27,650 | |
| | Group C Saudi Arabia 0 Denmark 1 (Rieper 68) | | | 38,140 | |
| | Group C France v South Africa | 8pm | Marseilles | ITV, R5L/Talk | |
| Wednesday June 10 | Group B Italy 2 (Vieri 10; R Baggio 85, pen) Chile 2 (Salas 45, 50) | | | 31,800 | |
| | Group B Cameroon 1 (Njanka 77) Austria 1 (Polster 90) | | | 33,460 | |
| Tuesday June 9 | Group A Brazil 2 (Cesar Sampaio 4; Boyd 73, og) Scotland 1 (Collins 38, pen) 80,000 | | | | |
| | Group A Morocco 2 (Hadji 38; Hadda 59) Norway 2 (Chippo 45, og; Eggen 61) 29,750 | | | | |

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GROUP E

HOLLAND v BELGIUM

FROM DAVID POWELL

No two teams, no two countries, paired together for a World Cup group match know each other better than Holland and Belgium, who meet in the Stade de France. They crossed paths in the qualifying competition, Holland winning both fixtures convincingly, and will be co-hosts of Euro 2000. Holland are most people's idea of semi-finalists, and Edgar Davids, sent home from Euro 96 after falling out with Guus Hiddink, the coach, has returned. Dennis Bergkamp will be on the bench and there is plenty of FA Carling Premiership interest: Overmars, Van Hooijdonk, de Goey, Hasselbaink and Stam. Manchester United's £10 million defender, Belgium, who eliminated Ireland in a play-off to qualify, have not failed to reach the second round in the past four finals.

Referee: P Collins (Italy).
 COVERAGE: Television: BBC1 (from 7.30pm). Radio: Radio 5 Live (from 6pm). Kick-off: 8pm.

SOUTH KOREA v MEXICO

FROM BRIAN GLANVILLE

South Korea, though regular competitors since a disastrous debut in Switzerland in 1954, have never won a single World Cup finals game. Could this be the turning point? The Koreans certainly have experience. Hong Myung Ho, who plays as a sweeper behind two main-markers, has more than 90 caps and is only 29. Up front, Choi Yong Soo, 24, who scored nine goals in the qualifying tournament, is the main hope for victory. Mexico, indifferent of late, will hope that the blond Luis Hernandez, back in Mexico after a frustrating spell with Boca Juniors in Argentina, can get among the goals.

SOUTH KOREA (probable, 3-5-2): Kim Byung-il - Choi Byung-il, Hong Myung Ho, Lee Min Sun - Lee Ky Hyung, Yoo Sang Chul, He Seok Jo, Lee Sang Yoon, Ko Jung Su - Choi Yong Soo, Seo Jung Eop.
MEXICO (probable, 4-4-2): J Campos - I Terrazas, D Davina, C Suarez, P Pardo - G Aspe, G Villa, R Ramirez, B Luna - L Hernandez, G Barco.
 Referee: G Barco (Austria).
 COVERAGE: Television: ITV (from 4.15pm); Eurosport (from 4pm). Kick-off: 4.30pm.

EN PASSANT

THE CARDS

YELLOW: Austria: A Pfeiffer. Brazil: Cesar Sampaio, Akelar. Bulgaria: A Nenkov, H Stochkov, T Vorov. Cameroon: S Iyona. Chile: N Parraguez, C Acuna, F Rojas. Denmark: A Nielsen, M Rieper, M Wiegorst. Italy: A di Livio, F Cannavaro. Morocco: S Chiba. Paraguay: M Benitez. Saudi Arabia: K Al-Muwallid. Scotland: D Jackson.

RED: Bulgaria: A Nenkov.

THE SCORERS

2: M Salas (Chile). 1: Cesar Sampaio (Brazil), J Collins (Scotland), D Eggen (Norway), M Hadji (Morocco), A Hadda (Morocco), C Vieri (Italy), R Baggio (Italy), P Njanka (Cameroon), A Polster (Austria), M Rieper (Denmark).

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Brazil | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Norocco | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Norway | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Scotland | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Chile | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Italy | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Austria | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cameroon | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Denmark | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| S Arabia | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| France | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Africa | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bulgaria | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Paraguay | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Nigeria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cameroon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Belgium | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Holland | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Mexico | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| South Korea | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Germany | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Iran | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| United States | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Yugoslavia | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Colombia | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| England | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Romania | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Tunisia | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Argentina | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Croatia | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Jamaica | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Japan | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

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WORLD CUP 98

'The Saudis didn't make much of a showing — as many travelling fans as Yeovil Town'

Hats off to Danes for sheer variety

Stade Felix Bollaert, Lens

Never having seen the town of Lens before, I don't know what it looks like denuded of expectant or jubilant Danes, but I can report with confidence that it is really, really small, and that the surrounding country is very, very flat, which helps you pick out the conical slag-heaps around the station. "Bordeaux sounds nice," I said wistfully, when all the World Cup arrangements were being made. "St Etienne has a ring to it." But it cut no ice.

"Lens has its attractions, it is in the far Nord and is a burgeoning industrial centre," they said. "Moreover the stadium capacity of the Stade Felix Bollaert actually outstrips the population of the town, and that includes the mad, the infirm and *aussi les enfants*."

And it's true. There are 35,000 people in Lens, yet puzzlingly, the Stade Felix Bollaert holds over 41,000. On Saturday afternoons, the fans of Racing Club presumably don their excellent blood-and-gold colours and then lie across the seats. Filling this large stadium must be a constant source of anxiety in this town. When new people come to live in Lens, their commitment to football must be rigorously examined before they are even allowed to unpack the van.

Having all those seats to fill on Saturdays, Lens just can't afford to countenance football apathy in its populace. Stragglers and conscientious objectors are rounded up and bussed to the match. People are torn from libraries and allotments, their dibbers and Madame Bovarys still trembling in their hands.

Actually, the point is that Lens loves football, and has, rather flatteringly, based this recently-renovated stadium on the British model. This means that if you take the two basic types of stadium — space-ship and big shed — this is a very big shed, perpendicular to the point of vertiginous, with sharp corners and a bit cut off where the train line goes past.

Spectators are close to the pitch, and can make a big, satisfactory noise. Stairwells are bare concrete.

TGV

Truss's Grand Voyage



A cold wind whips round your burn and numbs your fingers. In short, it is a proper football ground, and I have to say, what with it being so parky, I felt absolutely at home.

So Denmark v Saudi Arabia was the first Lens match. The Saudis didn't make much of a showing, crowd-wise — I calculated they have the same number of travelling fans as Yeovil Town, though with that rather un-Yeovil addition of an amplified loud-hailer, by which their unimaginative team was seemingly perpetually called to prayer. (Wouldn't this put them off, rather than encourage them, I wondered?)

The Danes, on the other hand, yelled in conventional manner, and there were about 18,000 of them. For a long time it looked as if the only interesting feature of the match would be the diversity of Danish hats, which was genuinely surprising.

I mean, who would have named Denmark the home of the novelty hat? Yet the Danes at Lens quite honestly sported by far the finest array of headgear I've seen since the Easter Parade in Battersea Park was so tragically abolished. To the usual bobble, beanie and flat-cap were added a kind of dinosaur hat, a hat with clapping hands protruding from the front, also horned hat, bowler, jester, sleeping and top. You shouldn't spend a football match scanning the crowd for tribbles and panamas to complete the range, but if the match sometimes makes you drift off... well,

it's better than fiddling with the fluff in your navel, at least.

It was a strange match, this. Very lively, but with no ideas, and masses of fouls. But until Brian Laudrup's corner finally made a Rieper goal in the 68th minute, I couldn't help thinking of those *slam-slam-slam* statistics on Sky Sports, which in this case would show Denmark's record thus: shots at goal, 106; shots on target, 0.

"Argh!" was the regular cry from the crowd as yet another Danish shot went wide, or high, or nowhere in particular. Meanwhile, in the first half (before they warmed up), the Saudis kept sending long balls upfield where there was nobody to retrieve them — just Peter Schmeichel, bemused but glad of something to keep his hands warm.

Brian Laudrup was jolly watchable, as ever. All players are mute from the viewpoint of the stands, but Laudrup has an expressive New Testament suffer-in-silence quality that I admire. You can imagine him believing that least said, soonest mended; kind words butter no parsnips. Being awfully good at back-heeling, he literally adds a dimension to his game — and if I appear fixated, I am.

In the first half, he performed an astonishing run at goal through four or five defenders — not gracefully slaloming *comme Ronaldo*, but just kicking the ball into each opponent, and kicking it again, and again, until finally he got past.

Waiting for England to take this World Cup stage has now become agonising. Everyone is getting the chance to show their stuff while our boys sit on their hands in Nantes. Is it always like this? Why can't everybody play a match on the first day, just to get their blood circulating?

The more we see fabulous goals from the likes of Hadji, or Salas or Njanka, the more distant English football seems, and the weirder it is to hear Michael Owen described as the potential star of the tournament. Two more days we have like this, with the whole world saying "Michael Who?"

LYNNE TRUSS



A Denmark fan, sporting Viking headgear with Tricolour, shouts for his team in Lens yesterday

WORLD CUP DIARY

Romanians take shine to England

IF ENGLAND'S players take the field in Toulouse on June 22 and notice a sheen on the faces of their opponents, they should not be too alarmed. It is only the Romania players taking advice from Iulian Bunea, football lover and renowned druid, who has a magic potion that he claims will assist Anghel Iordanescu's squad. Consisting of holy water, basil, olive oil and honey, it is smeared over the face before kick-off and accompanied by the sign of the cross three times. "I've advised them to anoint their goal net as well," Bunea said, "which will prevent the opposition from scoring." England have been warned.

Scotland supporters travelling to the game against Brazil were not impressed by the new Terminal 9 that caters specially for charter flights at Charles de Gaulle airport. On their return trip, the dispirited fans were herded into pen-like waiting areas and watched by menacing-looking men from the CRS. "All it needed was a collie dog to round us up," one disgruntled travel courier said.

General Abdulsalam Abubakar, Nigeria's new military ruler, has given the country's World Cup squad the fillip they needed before their group D match against Spain this afternoon. "You cannot afford to disappoint us because a dismal outing will further depress the national mood," Abubakar said yesterday, a week after Gen Sani Abacha, the country's leader, had died suddenly. Presumably, he then told them in graphic detail of what would happen if they failed.

Most volatile section of the betting market is that of leading goalscorer. Ladbrokes reports a massive gamble on Marcelo Salas, the Chile striker, after his two goals against Italy and have cut his odds from 50-1 to 4-1. Fernando Morientes, of Spain, has attracted a bet of £500 at 40-1, while Michael Owen is 25-1. A William Hill punter has put £50,000 on Spain, at evens, to beat Nigeria today.

Dailly set for next exam at the top level

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA

IN CONVENTIONAL classrooms, education may be conducted in a caring fashion, but football, with its retrograde habits, still favours the school of hard knocks. Christian Dailly could display the bruises from the latest seminar. On Wednesday, the Derby County player found that Brazil, for all the gaiety of their style, have rough means of dealing with wing backs who attempt to outrun a defence.

Many of Scotland's squad will regard this tournament as the last great experience in their careers, but the case of Dailly is different. At 24, it matters to his country that he should be enhanced by the adventure. He was the youngest member of the team in the World Cup's opening match.

There had been little to prepare him for the test. Of the previous ten caps collected by him, seven had been awarded in friendly games. Dailly was uncomfortably aware of the transition required on Wednesday. "There are different levels within football and the World Cup must be the highest of all," he said.

Dailly is certain to play against Norway at the Stade Lescur in Bordeaux on Tuesday and although he will probably be employed as a wing back there is a slight chance that he could return to his more familiar role in the middle of the defence, where he would find himself faced by Tore Andre Flo, the Chelsea forward.

He said: "We expect a difficult game against Norway. It is true that they are powerful, but there is a lot more to them than just that. They are good players who are capable of subtlety as well. The good thing now is that we do have to beat them. All the complications have been removed and I prefer that."

If Dailly really does see an advantage in the defeat by Brazil, he must have developed a resilience that shows his education in the ways of a harsh sport to be at an advanced stage.

'Arise, Sir Geoffrey' at just the right moment

Rob Hughes applauds the knighthood for England's 1966 World Cup hero

With timing that England must hope Alan Shearer, Michael Owen et al discover after the weekend, Geoff Hurst was knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours yesterday. How popular, how remarkable, how exquisitely timed our Queen has bestowed the fifth footballing knighthood, and the third related to the summer of 1966... 30 years ago when England won the World Cup at Wembley, the first and only time in history that we can claim to have finished what we started when we sent missionaries out into the world, more than a century ago, to teach so many nations how to play "our" game.

Sir Geoff is a decent man: he would never have stooped to the antics that bespoil the sports pages and the front pages, with lamentable regularity. He could take a drink, though probably only one in the run-up to a match.

He could hold a conversation, and hold his temper. He has shown, in his participation in a multi-million-pounds insurance company, that there is more to the English footballer than a man whose brains begin at the toes and terminate at the knees.

That was the description given to English players by Paul Breitner, the Bavarian full-back whose German team learned how to take the ball off us after we had our one great triumph, at Wembley 32 summers ago.

No one over the age of 40.

and few children who have been subjected to the filmed images ever since, will need reminding that it was Hurst who scored the hat-trick in the final, or whose third and final goal evoked the eternal phrase from commentator Kenneth Wolstenholme: "They think it's all over... it is now."

"The timing is impeccable," Hurst said on the green sward of Wembley Stadium once again when his award was publicly acknowledged yesterday. "I hope the lads can emulate 1966, and this award,

'He was a product of Ron Greenwood's scholastic teaching'

which is more than I ever expected in my wildest dreams, was to the achievement of a great team, a great spirit."

Hurst, now 56 though, thanks to a well-spent youth not looking it is hardly the man to jump through hoops even when being tapped on the shoulder by the Head of State. He was, in action, an athlete rather than an intuitively talented player, a product of West Ham United and of Ron Greenwood's scholastic teaching.

Indeed, had Sir Alf Ram-

sey, who like Sir Bobby Charlton, derived his knighthood from the same triumph, been true to the real goalscorer of the age, it could so easily have been this morning Arise, Sir James Greaves. Jimmy Greaves, a drinker who had come through his problems, would not be grudge young Geoff a thing. It has been easier picking up a knighthood than getting his hands back on the old leather ball from the German who managed those three decades ago to make off with it. But now that '66 is back in vogue, now that football crosses more social barriers than ever was the case, the anointment of Sir Geoff has a significance beyond the simple bestowing of the honour.

For he is one of the three players who have been hired by the Football Association to be roving ambassadors for their round-the-world campaign to bring the World Cup home again in 2006. It has a greater ring to the bidding when Sir Bobby Charlton and now Sir Geoff Hurst are leading the requests for votes. How long, one wonders, will it be before Gary Lineker, the third former player, is elevated to the knighthood?

Geoff Hurst, for being the right man at the right place in the right time, and as importantly for conducting himself with dignity and humility ever since, now joins Sir Alf, Sir Bobby and those two older revered figures of the English game, Sir Stanley Matthews and Sir Tom Finney. The last had to wait almost a lifetime to be so honoured, but Finney never had the opportunity to be an ambassador for something so dearly coveted in the land, or to be in the public eye at the moment when football has been raised above its station. This month, this weekend, the wishes of more people in the nation than possibly ever before are for someone to do as Hurst did all those years ago — time his act "impeccably".



Hurst, with Bobby Moore, holds the World Cup aloft



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Prime batsman, wicketkeeper and now captain, Alec Stewart is thriving under a heavy load

Jack of all trades, master of England's destiny

ALAN LEE



Alec Stewart MBE has spent his career hearing people doubt his capabilities, and usually proving them wrong, so the condescending reaction to his elevation caused him neither surprise nor affront. His appointment as England captain was variously thought boring, belated, unadventurous and temporary. Most wished him well, but few expected great things.

He cannot and must not be judged on one game, especially an unfinished one, but events at Edgbaston last week indicated that Stewart, far from being some selectorial stooge, will approach the job with individualism and maybe even daring. It might not make him a successful captain, but it ought to make him a more interesting one than expected.

Inheriting the position when not far short of his 35th birthday, when all in the dressing-room and beyond had long regarded him as a cheerleading lieutenant and when the suspicion persisted that he was considered the least worst option, did not add up to a ringing endorsement. He seemed more like a makeshift solution for the inconvenient short term, an attendant for the waiting room in which Ramprakash, Hussain and Adam Hobbieke practised their lines.

Stewart knew better than to contradict such supposition openly, for there was a degree of truth to it. Not for nothing, though, does he name his primary qualification as "being streetwise". The general perception of an eager patriot constantly taking on more than is good for him is true to a point, but Stewart is no fool. Like the wicketkeeping and the oscillating batting positions before it, he accepted the captaincy with a keen awareness of what might happen to him and has begun ensuring that it does not.

"I didn't lobby for the job, because that's not my way, but I had no doubts I would take it if asked," he said this week. And, despite the rain on his parade at Edgbaston, he imposed an unsuspected style and assertiveness, ordering the hectic run-chase on Sunday afternoon.

"I've really enjoyed it so far," he said. "When I weighed up the



Boring, unadventurous, temporary... Stewart's appointment raised eyebrows elsewhere, but he has remained focused on the task ahead. Photograph: Hugh Roulledge

cricket side of being captain, the extra duties didn't worry me. I knew I would be keeping wicket, so I would have two jobs already. Silly as it sounds, to add one more was neither here nor there. As for the other side, I had no illusions. If the England team loses, it's the captain who cops the flak, just like the England football manager.

"I've always been able to cope with good and bad press — one time I've not been good enough to play for England, the next time I've been the best player in the world. I take it all with a pinch of salt. This week, the press has been good, but it won't always be that way." Always, for the Stewart captaincy, but do not be surprised if he outlasts all forecasts. He has started with certain inbuilt advantages, of which his off-field image is paramount. The thought of Stewart being snapped by the pre-dawn paparazzi, drink in one hand, blonde in the other, cigarette in mouth and eyes unfocused, is laughable. A devoted family man with a wife, son and daughter, he

hardly touches alcohol, hates smoking and likes to be in bed before 10pm, where his greatest indiscretion is regularly falling asleep with the television on.

His second, and related, asset is his popularity with the tabloid media, to which Michael Atherton exhibited undisguised disdain. Atherton had the ability to reveal more in a few sentences than Stewart does in a thousand words, but usually he was disinclined. Stewart obligingly fills the gaps between quite marks, even if, by his own cheerful admission, "it's always the same old stuff". He is also a rarity among modern sportsmen in that he admits to reading the papers.

This distinction, it now transpires, will be evident in their styles of captaincy. Atherton addressed his players formally only when he felt it necessary; Stewart will speak when he thinks it helpful, which means far more

often. At Edgbaston, he gave a team talk four mornings out of five. "That will be how I go on doing it," he said. "I want the boys to know my way of thinking."

Atherton's on-field demeanour tended to be inscrutable, even lugubrious; shouting and clapping was anathema to him. Stewart is unashamedly more animated. He likes a noisy, tactile team.

Stewart said: "I don't think that has changed with being captain, though you'd have to check the stump mike. I have been the same as usual and I do feel the encouragement factor is important." It was important to Stewart himself two years ago, when he was left out by England after a dismal winter. Atherton's support sustained him then and he has not forgotten it, so there was much that passed unspoken between the pair as they shared the

moment of Atherton's century last Thursday. "I'm glad I was out there with him," Stewart said. "He's a very popular fellow and everyone realised what he'd been through. The dressing-room was a happy place that night."

It was not such a happy place the next evening, when Darren Gough returned from hospital with confirmation of a broken finger. "He was crying his eyes out and I don't blame him," Stewart said. "He'd waited 12 months, just to have it all taken away. It was a huge downer."

Early the next morning, in wintry damp, Stewart gathered his tracksuited charges around him on the outfield of a near-empty ground. Team-talk time again. "I needed to say something, even if it seemed obvious. I told them we still had enough good bowlers to bowl them out, but it meant that people had to take extra responsibility, which is what this game is

all about." Certainly for Stewart it is. He has taken on endless responsibilities, it seems, and thrived. Oddly, the Edgbaston Test of two June was the last match he missed. Since then, in 23 consecutive Tests, batting in a multitude of positions — sometimes keeping wicket, sometimes not — he has scored 1,827 runs at an average of more than 48.

There were times when his runs defied his mind, for both his wife, Lynn, and his mother, Sheila, suffered brain-related illnesses during 1996. He never spoke of it around the team, dogged in his determination to "keep work and private life separate". He pursues that course still, aided by having a wife with no love for cricket, and believes it is essential to sanity in his new post.

He will allow for no distractions. Asked if his missed stumping, last Saturday, could be put down to preoccupation with tactics, he would have none of it. "I missed the ball, simple as that," he said. "I won't use the excuse about the captaincy being a distraction, now

'His greatest indiscretion is falling asleep and leaving the television on'

or ever." He feels comfortable leading from behind the stumps. "I find it quite a good position," he said. "You get to know the pace of the bowlers, what they are doing with the ball and whether they are tired."

Stewart's father, Micky, formerly the England team manager, is his rock. "He waited for me to go to him about the job, as he always does," he said. "He was all for me taking it, but told me I must be certain. 'If you're not sure,' he said, 'don't do it.' That's the way we've always been. He's a mate as well as a dad and I ask him things that other people perhaps wouldn't ask their father."

As a captain, however, Stewart must take his own decisions on such matters as the toss. "I would have bowled first at Edgbaston, but I made certain I spoke to the boys before and talked positively about our batting, so that it wouldn't seem the end of the world if I lost it."

He would also have enforced the follow-on had it been available, and he would have declared immediately on Monday if it had not rained — "though at 10.45 not 10.30, just to give them a bit less time to prepare". He even tried to delay the abandonment because he was keen for a brief session of play to undermine South Africa's confidence one more time. He grins at the thought, for there is a tough, confrontational streak within him that has a healthy disrespect for all opposition.

Stewart, like most of his players, loves vocal support. He says he was unaware of the crowd trouble that saw upwards of 60 people ejected last Saturday, but he was very aware of the uplifting noise. "Last year at Edgbaston it got Atherton and me going, so we finished off Australia on the Sunday night when it hadn't even been in our heads," he said.

At Lord's last year, Roger Knight, the MCC secretary, made a solemn and somewhat party-pooping speech over the public address before play, reminding the crowd how to behave. Stewart is anxious that his former captain at Surrey should not repeat the performance before the second Test next week. "I've spoken to Knight and said I looked forward to seeing him at Lord's but not to hearing him," he said. "I said I wanted it to go back to how Lord's normally is. Crowds must be respectful and nobody wants drunks or brawling, but I'm all for making sure the opposition know they are playing England and that we are at home."

Croft and Ealham can rest secure

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

A YEAR ago, England gave an unusual vote of confidence to the players who had just beaten Australia at Edgbaston in the first Test by naming them all for the next match at Lord's, without so much as a selection meeting. Apart from identifying a replacement for the luckless Darren Gough, the same course will be followed this weekend, though memory will insure against any attendant complacency.

Australia brought their bruised egos to Lord's and bowled England out for 77. But for bad weather, they would almost certainly have won. The next three games did go their way, exposing the English euphoria of early June as so much hot air.

even have the benefit of a lead in the series as they approach a venue that so often brings their undoing. South Africa were outplayed in Birmingham and might well have lost, given a fine last day, but they will know they can hardly play as badly again. "They will raise their game and come back at us hard," David Graveney, the England chairman of selectors, predicted yesterday. "We know to our cost that Lord's has always acted as an inspiration to visiting teams and we have to be aware of what happened last year, without being unduly pessimistic."

The inspirational factor certainly applied in 1994, when

the first South Africa team to visit England in 29 years began their series at Lord's and won by the small matter of 356 runs. England were dismissed for 180 and 99 and, to make matters worse, the game spawned the dirt-in-pocket furore that almost drove Michael Atherton to resign the captaincy.

Four years on, and back in the ranks, Atherton's mood and performance at Edgbaston were those of a man who has just had gag and shackles removed. Alec Stewart, the new captain, described the contribution of his predecessor in glowing terms. "He was brilliant, quite one of the boys again in a really jovial way."

Atherton batted masterfully in the first innings and selflessly in the second, his response indicative of a positive team mood engendered by Stewart, but nothing more than early encouragement

should be read into this, at least until the annual examination at Lord's has been undergone.

Graveney is not planning a full-scale selection meeting — "I speak to Graham Gooch and Mike Gatling almost every day, anyway" — because there is little for the panel to debate. Even those who underperformed at Edgbaston, such as Mark Ealham and Robert Croft, will certainly not be summarily discarded in the fickle fashion that once caused such insecurity.

Ealham was obliged to act as third seamer in the first Test and he is demonstrably underqualified for that role. His batting also misfired but there was mitigation for his second-innings failure, at least, in that he was one of several who threw away their wickets in the hectic pursuit of quick runs.

Some time this summer,

perhaps quite soon, Ben Hobbieke will have his form and frame of mind suitable to set before a Test-match audience. Until then, Ealham will remain part of the squad, though whether he plays at Lord's will depend on the look of the pitch.

Croft suffered a swift and visible loss of confidence during Saturday's cricket at Edgbaston. He had bowled with skill and variety early on but nothing went his way; thereafter, in his delivery and his expressions, he was a man who believed the fates would prevent him taking a wicket.

Graveney has spent some time with him this week and has no doubts about his ability. It is a worry that Croft also had a poor championship match at Lord's, a fortnight ago, but his position is all the more secure for the setback suffered by Ian Salisbury.

A groin injury that worsened during the Benson and Hedges Cup semi-finals means Salisbury cannot be considered for Lord's. Far more importantly, he is unlikely to recover in time for the third Test at Old Trafford, where the likely pitch conditions will almost certainly persuade England to include two spin bowlers.

There is better news of Gough. Graveney is "reasonably confident" that his broken finger will keep him out of only the next Test and that he will be fit for Old Trafford. His place is likely to go to Dean Headley, though another fast bowler — either Chris Silverwood or the uncapped Ed Giddins — will also be named in the XI.

Likely squad: Atherton, Butcher, Hussain, Stewart, Thorpe, Ramprakash, Ealham, Croft, Headley, Fraser, Silverwood.

Grubby assembly ensures that it's just not cricket

MICHAEL HENDERSON



It is confession time. Last week, disturbed by the Test crowd at Edgbaston, which at times resembled a festival of filth, I committed an act of gross decency in the Rea Bank Stand. In the interests of civilised life, somebody had to.

Picking my way through the general tat, pausing only to wonder why so many young Englishmen want to appear as stupid as possible, I took a pew. I recalled with pleasure and sadness the first time I had sat there at a Test match, as a 14-year-old school-boy in 1973.

Pleasure, because going to a Test match in those days was a case of catching "the joy as it flies". Sadness, because it was hard to spot a boy of 14 who seemed to be enjoying a similar experience.

Edgbaston was awash with social inadequacies: bawling, brawling, caterwauling; slating, baiting, hating. The Rea Bank Stand was a cave of sullen youths for whom insolence, ugliness and selfishness are basic facts of life.

"In the name of England," I wanted to say, "the England that you lot harp on about and know nothing of, and of cricket, about which you know even less. I purge this grubby assembly." Many in that stand struggle to master everyday speech, so a roccoco flourish would have floored them. Nevertheless, by thinking those thoughts, I willed a silent act of purification.

In the kulturkampf between "traditional" values and whatever happens to be the passing fancy, Test grounds have become the new battlefields. To some, the peacock parades of fancy dressers

are a form of patriotism. To others, it is just another way of showing off.

As they are showing off, however, these people are putting off thousands of others. Who in their right mind wants to sit next to a man kitted out as a rabbit, whose interest extends no farther than joining in whatever song is going round and gorging himself on ale?

It is time that cricket addressed this problem because, if it carries on unchecked, no decent person will be prepared to share grounds with the sort of crowd that stunk out Birmingham. Dennis Amis, the Warwickshire chief executive, has promised to "investigate". He could have done so in the time it takes to bowl an over by observing the endless procession of half-wits. You can't blame him for failing to grasp what is going on. He played in a more innocent age.

Those odd folk who grew up loving Test cricket for the untrodden spectacle that it used to be cannot help but remember the comradeship, particularly in the old Tavern at

Lord's. There used to be a West Indian chap, called Ron Griffiths, I think, who went everywhere and entertained whole swaths of the crowd with his vivid public commentaries on the game.

Ah yes, the game. Everything stemmed from what was happening on the field. It was what you read about in the morning papers, talked about on the way to the ground and shared with others when you got there. It made for an informed audience, free of the ignorance and reflexive bigotry that has infected today's mob.

Short of introducing some sort of test, whereby people are grilled on cricketer matters by a "Health Commission" that has the power to confiscate the tickets of all who fail, there is no foolproof plan. But we can make a start.

First, as Eddie Barlow made plain the other day on Test Match Special, the ground authorities can always refuse admission. Next, if anybody interferes with public enjoyment, they must be booted out. However much cricket needs friends, it has no need of the oiks who spoil the show at Edgbaston. For far too long television and radio has encouraged them to think they are exotic creatures, beyond censure. They must now be banished to Outer Siberia.

If the yobbo element is uncertain how to mix strong drink with fellowship, they should come to Lord's this week, where cricket-lovers of all stripes will be taking wine each day on the Memorial Gardens and swapping amusing tales. We shall not be singing.

CHEANEY
ENGLAND'S FINEST
England's finest cricket bats, chosen suppliers of the England Football Team.



Giddins, who is bowling well for Warwickshire, may find a place in the England party for the Lord's Test

THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 13 1998

Resilient Surrey suppress Essex

CHEAMERS... of... 257 runs...

AFTER... in which... champions... on their... gave more... why Surrey... Essex... the day... down... at... Hobbieke... batsmen...

At 100 for... was... took... reaching... 40 balls... only one... left Brown... what a... Facing... Essex... wickets... Brown's... times... and... Barn... the ball... Jere... a more... poor... ble.

Nor... better... but... bright... his... er... with... than... his... and... 24... more... five... then... celebrate... A brief... that... spinner... Jamie... and... the... action... Hobbieke... before... class... Hobbieke... slash... wicket... caught... and... who... three... it was...

Ealham

KEY... since... the... questions... me... point... dressed... The... every... that... with... quality... champions... This... with... review... wash... on... first... equally... the... quarter...

Giddins c ten-wick

A HIGH-SPEED... runs of... by... Warwickshire... prove... a... County... by... kept... about... There... to help... there... was... does... way... to... in... the... Giddins... lower... and... being... to... in... Giddins... Warwick... after... added... every... through... with... a... from... from... Warwick... the...

CRICKET

Lancashire held up as Bowler takes root

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four): Lancashire, with six second-innings wickets in hand, lead Somerset by 173 runs

THE first two days of this evenly-contested match have provided some gripping cricket and it would be a dull player indeed who did not enjoy belonging to it. Though ball has mastered bat, the pitch is no minefield. There are runs to be had for those prepared to be patient. So far, Lancashire have played that little bit more responsibly.

Hidden within every game there are nuggets of immense personal value and yesterday the most interesting tale concerned Bowler, the Somerset captain, who has struggled so badly for runs that he didn't know when or where his next score was coming from. Until this innings he had not made a fifty in this season's championship so he was in no mood to apologise when he spent 44 hours labouring over 53.

If it was hard going for him, and at times hard watching for everybody else, it was a good, battling effort on behalf of his team while his partners kept getting out at the other end. This was cricketer of the old-fashioned sort, as Bowler stood firm against Wasim, Martin and Chapple on a pitch that offered them every encouragement.

Bowler was eventually the seventh man out, leg-before to Chapple, who is beginning to look the bowler who turned a few heads as a teenager. With his bustling approach and brisk arm action Chapple has always "looked" a decent bet



Bowler: stubborn innings

and now that he has put an ill-defined injury behind him (it was diagnosed last winter as a hernia, which required an operation) he can start again. Martin was rather more impressive, twice taking two wickets in an over, and he decided to test Rose with a series of short balls, observing a tight off-stump line that compelled respect. Martin appears to have fallen from grace as a Test cricketer, but he is bowling well enough at the moment to warrant consideration.

Wasim, like Chapple, ended with three wickets and if, at times, he tended to rely too much on the short ball, he generated enough pace and bounce to trouble all the batsmen.

Lancashire cannot lean on Wasim for big wicket days any more. The others must declare their hand, and here they did so, but the new captain is still handy for a few overs, off his short run, as he preferred yesterday, or the longer one.

In his first spell Martin accounted for Holloway with a booming inswinging the batsman tried to avoid, and next ball bowled Harden, who decided to let it go.

After Chapple had pinned Lathwell in front of the wicket, Martin then had Ecclestone taken at second slip by Flintoff, who went on to hold a couple more catches, and found a pearly to hit Turner's stumps.

It was left to Rose to continue his good match by making 47, assisted by Caddick in a breezy ninth-wicket stand, until he was the last man out at 233, which gave Lancashire a first-innings lead of 34.

They took it beyond 100 for the loss of McKeown and Flintoff, who were caught behind, and Atherton, who nicked Mushtaq to slip, where Bowler clung on.

Crawley tried to settle for the night and was playing beautifully until he chased Bulbeck's first ball and edged a catch to Turner. Bulbeck had replaced Mushtaq who had nothing to show for leg-before appeals so intense that the umpires could be excused for seeking cover.

Hampshire suffer as wickets tumble

By JOHN STERN

HEADINGLEY (second day of four): Hampshire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 11 runs behind Yorkshire

HAVING fought their way back into the game in the morning, Hampshire suffered a humiliating afternoon. By the close, they had recovered some dignity through Giles White's highest Britannie Assurance county championship score of the season.

In total, 10 wickets fell yesterday, the first six of them belonging to Yorkshire, whose hopes of reaching 400 rapidly disappeared once Wood went for 108 at the end of the sixth over of the day.

David Byas's declaration at 327 for nine might have caught the visitors cold but, in any event, their first innings was almost over before it had started. Having lunched on three for four, they soon declined to 32 for seven and only a fearless innings from McLean took Hampshire into three figures. A combination of aggressive bowling on a helpful pitch and some judicious shots led to the collapse.

There was much consternation among the Hampshire batsmen, not only with their

worsening plight but also with some of the umpiring decisions. There were five leg-before decisions in their first innings, four of which were called by Mike Harris at the Kirkstall Lane End. Aynes, who batted 55 minutes for 17, felt he was well forward against Silverwood and became enraged when he was abused by one of the few spectators on the Western Terrace.

One felt for Dimitri Mascarenhas, who pulled up in the middle of an over during Yorkshire's innings with a side injury after taking four wickets. He came in at two for four and batted doggedly for 67 minutes without scoring before being caught behind trying to cut.

Silverwood, who finished with five for 13, was in excellent form, charging down the hill from the Kirkstall Lane End and making one or two balls lift alarmingly. He dismissed White in the first over for a duck, then Smith and Kenway in successive balls. Hutchison, the left-arm, swung the ball back into the right-handers all day, picking up three wickets in the first innings and bowling White for 67 in the second.

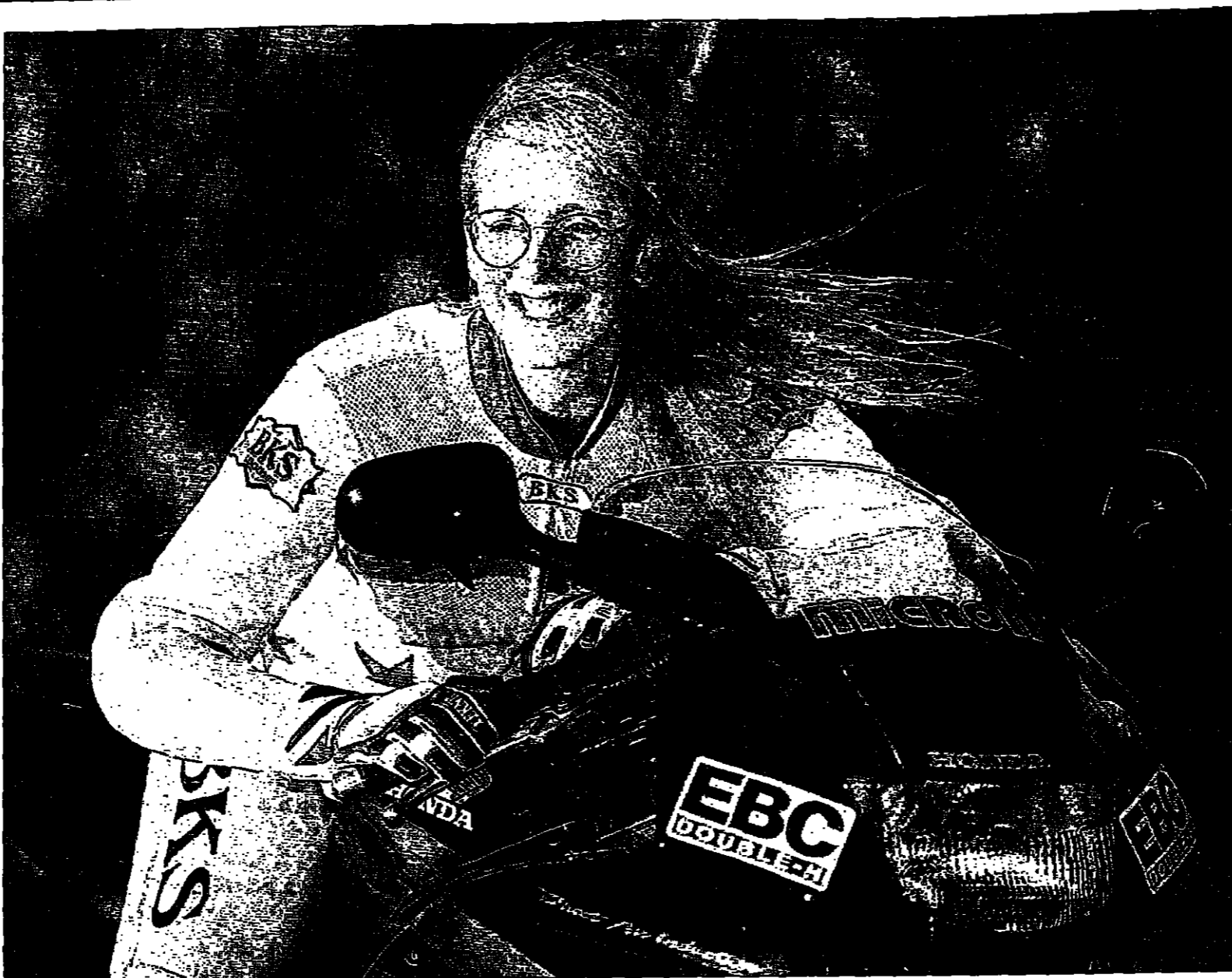
Vettori in command

DANIEL VETTORI, the New Zealand left-arm spin bowler, claimed career-best figures of six for 64 to dismiss Sri Lanka for 282 in the third and final Test match yesterday. However, his team still face the daunting task of scoring 296 runs for a victory that would give them a 2-1 triumph in the series.

Sharing the new ball with Chris Cairns, Vettori was successful as early as his second over when he trapped Marvan Atapattu leg-before for live. The home team, batting a second time with a 13-run lead

from the first innings, were dismissed half an hour before the day's scheduled close at the Sinhalese Sports Club stadium and New Zealand proceeded cautiously to ten without loss in pursuit.

Lord's has embraced the technological age by becoming the first ground in the country to install video cameras designed specifically to assist third umpires with close-run decisions. The scheme means third umpires can now be used at Lord's matches not covered by television networks.



Male riders crashed frequently trying to overtake Barnett, the women's TT record holder: now they treat her with respect and accept she is quick

Fast lady who leaves men in slow lane

LEATHER-clad speedsters, their machines straining like angry mosquitoes, have been racing the Isle of Man TT since 1907. Many top riders, including Carl Fogarty, the lap-record holder, no longer enter, declaring the whole thing too dangerous. It is the most famous motorcycle festival in the world yet controversy zooms around it like a superbike rev counter.

Women did not race there until the 1950s and, of the handful who have tried, the fastest is Sandra Barnett. She, too, has been absent this year, though not through fear for life and limb. "I first went five years ago and I got the bug bit," she said, "It's 38 miles of public roads. Racers either love it or hate it."

Some of the bikes hit speeds of 180mph but the Isle of Man can never be as safe as a purpose-built race track. There is no way to soften the stone walls, jutting pavements or telegraph poles. Last week

SARAH POTTER



at 150mph, she said. "You don't get that feeling anywhere else. Going faster each year is the aim and I want to lap at over 115 mph. Barnett's 1996 ride in the Junior TT - the category for

bikes under 600cc - in which she was the only woman and finished 12th out of 90, has inked her name into the record books. It put her 92nd on the list of the fastest 100 riders in the race and earned her a Silver Replica trophy for finishing in the top 10 per cent.

"She's the fastest female by a long way and has lapped quicker than the legendary Mike Hailwood," Pete said. "He was on a slower bike and the roads are smoother now but it's quite an achievement."

Barnett's speed has attracted the sponsors. "In that sense, I've made the most of being a woman in a man's world," she said. "It's not a sport to make a lot of money, but that's not the attraction. We've always been realistic about our level. We've got local sponsors and deals on oil, brake pads, tyres and helmets. A season can easily cost £25,000 per bike. They describe themselves as semi-professional. "There are

probably only seven or eight riders in Britain making a living from the sport and maybe 20 or 25 that have works bikes and don't have to pay anything. When you have a spill it can be very expensive to rebuild the bike."

That sometimes means rebuilding the body. Anna Wilkin, another female motorcyclist, has titanium strips either side of her spine and will never race again. "It is dangerous," Barnett said. "Rupturing leg ligaments is the worst I've done, in the New Era Superclub Championships in 1996."

Her first round victory in that event, at Mallory Park in Leicestershire, is one of her finest achievements. "The guy in second couldn't believe he'd been beaten by a woman," she said. The man was Steve Plater, now a professional rider. "My uncle used to crash trying to overtake Sandra," Pete said. "Now they accept it, because she is very fast."

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for various sports: BADMINTON, CYCLING, SAILING, SHOOTING, EQUESTRIANISM, TENNIS, GOLF, BASEBALL, BOWLS, WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DOUBLE RINK CHAMPIONSHIP, BASEBALL, BOWLS, WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DOUBLE RINK CHAMPIONSHIP, BASEBALL, BOWLS, WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DOUBLE RINK CHAMPIONSHIP.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Table with columns for various sports: CYCLING, MOTORCYCLING, TENNIS, GOLF, BASEBALL, BOWLS, WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DOUBLE RINK CHAMPIONSHIP, BASEBALL, BOWLS, WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DOUBLE RINK CHAMPIONSHIP.

SWIMMING

Klim wants IOC to ease his Sydney workload

By CRAIG LORD

MICHAEL KLIM, the Australian who won a record seven medals, four of them gold, at the world championships in January, is to appeal to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to have the swimming programme for the 2000 Games in Sydney altered in his favour.

Klim's action is a direct result of a decision by FINA, the international governing body for swimming, to introduce semi-finals for all races of less than 200 metres. That growth in the swimming programme will mean the Polish-born Klim, world-record holder for 100 metres butterfly, is scheduled for 18 races in Sydney, assuming he makes all finals and swims in the qualifying heats of relays.

A change to the programme to accommodate semi-finals, a move driven by television networks, will dictate that Klim must race the semi-final of the 100 metres butterfly just four events before the final of the 200 metres freestyle.

Klim is asking the IOC and FINA to switch the 1,500 metres freestyle from before to after the 100 metres butterfly so that he will gain an extra 40 minutes or so rest in between his races.

There is precedent for changing the Olympic programme. Klim will point to the case of athlete Michael Johnson, who persuaded the IOC to alter the athletics programme for the 1996 Atlanta Games so that he would have more rest time between his 200 and 400 metres races.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY MAY ROWING RACES

Table listing rowing races for Cambridge University, including names of crews and their respective events.

Sciandri takes centre stage for second time

Max Sciandri, of Great Britain, won the 160-kilometre fifth stage of the Critérium du Dauphine in Grenoble yesterday to add to his first-stage victory earlier in the week. Sciandri's confident performance, in rainy conditions that made some stretches of the route dangerous, confirmed his full recovery from a serious accident in November.

Sciandri made his move ten kilometres from the finish, breaking away from a small pack to cross the line more than a minute ahead of Giovanni Lombardi, of Italy. Nicolas Jalabert, of France, finished third. Armand de las Cuevas, of France, maintained his grip on the overall leader's yellow and blue jersey, despite finishing only 21st yesterday.

Simpson's senior service

Ian Simpson held off the challenge of Bob Jackson to win the final race of the Isle of Man TT Festival by just 3.7 seconds yesterday. The Scot had begun the week by winning the Formula One race on his 750cc Honda RC 45 by two seconds and was equally hard-pressed before clinching his third victory on the island, the six-lap senior race. Jackson lost 40 seconds refuelling his petrol cap after a refuelling stop. Jim Moodie gained his sixth TT victory in the three-lap production race.

Smith earns wild card

Sam Smith, the British No. 1, and Serena Williams, of the United States, have been given two wild cards for the women's singles at the Direct Line Insurance grass-court championships at Eastbourne next week. Williams, the sister of Venus Williams, was an obvious choice but Smith earned her chance after showing good form this week in the DFS Classic at Birmingham where she beat Rachel McQuillan, of Australia, ranked No 63 in the world, and Sarah Pitkowski, of France, the world No 47.

Detroit take flight

Kris Draper's goal after 15min 24sec of overtime completed an inspired come-from-behind 5-4 victory for the Detroit Red Wings in Detroit on Thursday night to give the defending Stanley Cup champions a 2-0 lead over the Washington Capitals in the National Hockey League championship series. The Red Wings, who trailed 2-1 in the second period, had 60 shots on goal. The third game in the best-of-seven series will be played tonight in Washington.

Jacklin follows leaders

Tony Jacklin, playing in his native Lincolnshire, posted a two-under-par 70 in the opening round of the De Vere Seniors Classic at Belton Woods, near Grantham, yesterday. The former Europe Ryder Cup captain, who was followed by a loyal local gallery, was two strokes behind Brian Waites, the former Nottingham professional, who scored seven birdies in his 68, and Tommy Horton. Jacklin intends to play in nine European seniors events this summer.

Train

Balco line

T

Steady a Depends



Trainer's daughter succeeds in own right as she takes leading role for BBC at Royal Ascot

Balding thrives in new line of family business

There I was, on a lovely horse on a lovely morning in lovely countryside with a lovely lady on a lovely horse beside me. Honestly, the things I am prepared to undergo to research this column are almost beyond comprehension.

The lovely place was Watership Down and to prove it, a squadron of rabbits burst from the top of the rise like the warriors in *Zulu*. The lovely horses in question were a racehorse called Pay Homage, and the trainer's hack, ridden by the hack who pens these words, the not inaptly named Quirk.

Journalistic innovation: perhaps the best way to understand a trainer is to ride his hack. That is to say, the horse he chooses to ride when he observes his string of a morning. Quirk is one of those horses who needs to impose his personality, an independent spirit who throws a pretty decent buck to express his solidarity with the horses galloping past. He is not above dumping his trainer on the grass.

Or perhaps the best way to understand the trainer is to chat up his daughter. The daughter was watching the string go by with an assessing eye, since I had usurped the hack for the morning. So it was her job to report back: this one worked like a train, that one had no steering and damn near ran down daughter and hack-riding hack.

Duty done, how about a little canter ourselves? And Clare Balding, for it was she, daughter of Ian, the royal trainer, who nudged Pay Homage into a ... canter? Pay Homage was not especially in the mood for a canter and nor was the jockey. Balding is not a creature of restraints and half-measures. When in doubt, kick on: suitable motto for the horsey life and most other kinds.

Quirk set after the fleeing pair with a great deal of vim, giving away only about 15 yards, his jockey rather more. Watership Down: the soft countryside falling away with incredible steepness beyond, and the best wind in the world blowing in our faces, that being the wind that blows between a horse's ears.

And Balding — no, really, I can't call her Balding, next time we meet in the Badminton press tent or at a

racecourse I would like to say: "Hello, Balding, would you care for a drink?" Clare is a star. Absolutely the latest thing.

Increasingly, television dictates the public perception of a sport. And Clare is racing. Next week, for the first time, she presents Royal Ascot as the central figure on the screen, the biggest challenge thus far of a brief media career that has already jumped prodigious heights. The jockey is not exactly overfaced, but hardly satisfied.

"All right, yes," she said, responding to a piece of journalistic bragging on my part, "but at least it was because of something you did. I want people to do the same sort of thing for me, because of what I've done — not because of who my father is."

There is something terribly driven about Clare. She must please her father, she must do something so good that her father will have to shut up for ever. She wants to delight him and defy him at the same time. "I thought I'd done that when I became head girl at school. Then I thought I'd done it when I became champion amateur jockey. Then I thought I'd done it when I became president of the Cambridge Union," she said.

Instead, her father asked why she hadn't got a first, only a rather decent 2:1. Not exactly bullying, in the tennis-parent sense of the term, just a man driven by goals and the need to achieve. That is how he gets his kick out of life so, naturally, he wants to share it.

It is ever the problem of the children of conspicuously successful parents. Do you seek eminence in

SIMON BARNES
Talking horse



the same field? Do you rebel and become a nun or a drug addict? Clare took the third way: she sought excellence in another field entirely.

Andrew, her younger brother, is the one who will train: he is working with Lynda Ramsden and will move in as his father's partner at Park House stables, Kingsclere, in 2000.

One wonders just how seamless a transition this will be — though Balding — Ian, that is — vows that his long-term retirement plan is to lose a bit of weight so he can ride point-to-point. When in doubt,

etc. Which is all of a piece with a phenomenally restless man who has run the yard since he was 25 and, at nearly 60, is a classic portrait-in-the-atic job. Baldings are built to last. He trained Mill Reef enough said. Mill Reef was one of the horses of the century who really was one of the horses of the century. He trained Border Arrow to be third in The Derby, before that to third in the 2,000 Guineas.

This is not, then, a household of modest expectations. I first met Clare when we both sat on the working party of the British Show Jumping Association. She was then doing only radio, but was already making waves, and not just in racing. She covered, and still covers, all sports. "How come you played so badly?" she has found herself asking. Asking, in fact, the questions that listeners, rather than sports stars, want to hear. Clare rather specialises in doing the sort of thing that's Not Quite Done.

She is forceful and effective in

committee, full of original ideas of the very good and the very bad kind, and bursting with missionary enthusiasm for the horsey sports. We should share them more. Knock down the old nonsense about class and privilege. Enjoy the beasts.

We met again as fellow judges of the Martin Wills Memorial Prize, a competition for young horse-writers, and we formed a powerful — certainly very loud — alliance, one based on the above principle. Never mind Sport For All: we stand for Horses For All. Clare took to television presentation much as you would expect from one of her quite extraordinary self-confidence.

"You're nodding too much," her father said, by way of celebrating her elevation. Upon the retirement of Julian Wilson, Clare got the job as the face of BBC racing.

Her first act was to slag off the BBC's racing coverage as "complacent and arrogant". There was, and still is, an endearing trait of loose cannonism in her. She is filled with ambition, but not at the cost of becoming someone else.

Clare, like Quirk, and like Quirk's usual rider, is not without quirks. She will impose her character on proceedings. Her father's tough, critical nature has given her the drive to achieve without denting her self-confidence. She refers to her "rather frightening" CV: her self-confidence is equally alarming. And she is but 27.

Just after she got the BBC job, she was asked to ride in a celebrity race. Shall I?, she asked her agent. If you must, the agent said. But for God's sake, don't fall off. With news of the appointment just out, it would make a picture story right across the national press. She didn't fall off. She and Pay Homage won the damn thing. She staked her reputation in a business built on reputation at the turning point of her career. A wise person would have ducked out.

But Clare is not wise, not in the what's-in-it-for-me kind of way. The race was, well ... irresistible. And so we asked our beasts for one last canter back across Watership Down, bunnies diving for cover as we went. Irresistible. When in doubt, kick on.



Balding has inherited her self-confidence and will to succeed from her critical father

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RUGBY UNION

World Cup draw gives Woodward cause for thought

By MARK SOUSTER

THE final pieces in the jigsaw of qualification for the rugby union World Cup next year were largely put in place yesterday when the draw was made in Cardiff, for the three European zone qualifying tournaments involving England, Scotland and Ireland.

The draw provided what should be a routine route to the finals for all three. England were grouped with Italy and Holland; Scotland with Spain and Portugal and Ireland with Romania and Georgia.

England will play their games in Huddersfield between November 14-22. Ireland at Lansdowne Road over the same period and Scotland at Murrayfield from November 28 to December 5.

The top two from each group progress automatically which, in England's case means they and Italy, with whom they were grouped in 1991 and 1995, should join, in pool B. New Zealand and possibly Tonga, who are expected to get through as winners of the repechages.

Apart from Twickenham,

where England will play their three games, the other venues for pool B matches are Welford Road, Leicester, the McAlpine Stadium, Huddersfield, and Ashton Gate, Bristol where New Zealand are due to open their campaign on October 3 next year.

Assuming, as one has to at present, that England finish as runners-up behind the All Blacks, they will face a daunting schedule in the knockout stages, one similar to that which they are now undertaking in the southern hemisphere.

With only the five pool-winners guaranteed to make the quarter-finals, the other three places will be determined by three knockout matches involving the runners-up in each pool and the best third-placed team.

It appears England will first have to negotiate a play-off, probably against Western Samoa, before confronting South Africa, the champions, in the last eight in Paris.

If England win that and if other matches have gone according to form, then they will

return to Twickenham to meet Australia for a place in the final — probably against New Zealand — in Cardiff on November 6.

Clive Woodward, the England coach, described the possibility of playing the Springboks in Paris as "bizarre", but pointed out that Western Samoa should not be underestimated. "It seems to be their stated policy to have their players playing in England, and that is something I have already started to take note of," Woodward said.

"At this stage I am not allowing myself to consider hypothetical situations, although clearly, in order to win the World Cup, you will need to beat the best teams."

The finals, in which the number of teams has been increased to 20 for the first time, open on Friday, October 1, 1999, with Wales, the hosts, likely to meet Argentina at the Millennium Stadium which, according to the tournament organisers, will be ready by next June. South Africa, New Zealand and France, the top three nations at the last tournament, join Wales as automatic qualifiers.

Sixteen more teams will emerge from zonal qualifying tournaments later this summer in Argentina, Australia, Singapore and Morocco, as well as those in Britain and Ireland. The final two places will be decided in a seven-nation repechage that has to be held before next April.

The 30 pool fixtures in the finals themselves, have been spread over nine days. "A lot of thought and effort have gone into this schedule, which is designed to maximise both the exposure and gate revenues of the tournament," Leo Williams, the chairman of Rugby World Cup Ltd (RWC), said. It is estimated that total turnover from commercial and gate revenues should reach £100 million, twice that of the last tournament.

"I would be disappointed if half of that was not profit which will be used to continue the development of the game worldwide," Marcel Martin, a RWC director, said.



Lomu will be looking to trample over England again today and regain his place on the wing in the All Blacks team

England tackle childish faults as tour's destiny hangs in balance

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT IN ROTORUA

EITHER the England tour will acquire a degree of equilibrium in Hamilton today or the dispassionate observer will write it off. Victory over a powerful New Zealand A would be balm to the soul, after the 76-point lashing delivered by Australia a week ago, but a competitive display is the least the touring side must aim for.

Clive Woodward's players have gone back to basics this week, so far back indeed that one grizzled New Zealander observing their training at Ray Boord Park here, said: "This is what they learn in kindergarten." He was watching a series of tackling exercises, an activity that most would take for granted so fundamental is it to a successful rugby team.

But such is the power of the southern hemisphere game that the England coaches — and at the last count there were five of them here, together with a conditioning coach, a specialist in motivation and a video analyst — have had to break down the tackle into its composite elements, as well as rehearse defensive patterns that were absent in Brisbane, where England missed 39 tackles.

It must be hoped that the set-piece work, the one area that held up against Australia, has not suffered through neglect. This New Zealand A side will offer a close examination, including as it does players who seek to be All

Blacks and seven who still harbour hopes of resuming their international careers. Players such as Caleb Ralph, the Auckland centre, who is at the start of what could be a meteoric rise, or Xavier Rush (no relation to Eric, the former All Blacks flanker/wing), his provincial colleague at No 8.

Players such as Glen Osborne who has 18 Test appearances to his credit, or the mighty Jonah Lomu, who passed a fitness test earlier this week on a foot injury, Lomu knows that a good display today will restore him to the All Blacks team in Dunedin next weekend, ahead of Joel Vidiri, and it is a certainty that New Zealand A will ply him with possession.

But England cannot become

wrapped up in a "stop Lomu" campaign. They must rely on Matt Moore, in his first appearance in a senior England jersey, piloting the 6ft 4in wing as part of a back three that will rely hugely on speed and wit to survive.

Woodward, the England coach, has opted to play Tom Beir at full back, the position where Beir learned his rugby at Cheltenham College under the tuition of Ian Wright, the former Northampton and England fly half. Dominic Chapman, the slimline Richmond wing, makes up the trio knowing that the present England left wing, Austin Healey, has a partially-dislocated shoulder; but while everyone wishes them well, no-one can pretend that they offer a physical threat.

"I don't think there is a lot of difference between playing wing and full back these days," Woodward said, citing the cases of Osborne and Jeff Wilson, who switch from one to the other in New Zealand with apparent facility. Yet he knows that familiarity with the basic tenets of the position at senior level should be a prerequisite and that Beir's appearance at No 15 represents a gamble.

Equally, Woodward will be biting his fingernails that Josh Lewsey can exercise a degree of control at fly half under pressure the like of which

Lewsey has never experienced. He is a capable footballer, but he is also capable of great inconsistency; at least he has Matt Dawson inside him to take off some of the pressure and link with a back row that possesses both experience and power.

This is the opportunity that Ben Clarke and Steve Ojomoh have been seeking for so long. Clarke made his 34th England appearance against Australia, as a temporary replacement when he should have been an original selection; so too Ojomoh, who finished the season with Gloucester in such belligerent style and could now add to his 11 caps.

"The squad are well aware that this is the game which has to start this tour," Dawson said. Indeed, this would have been the opening fixture, had not Rugby Football Union officials agreed to bolt the international with Australia onto the front of the tour (and South Africa onto the back).

More than 20,000 will be at Rugby Park in Hamilton to see if England can avoid living up to their advance billing, and the first international in Dunedin is expected to be a sell-out, so great is the enthusiasm for rugby in the wake of the Super 12 tournament. Crowds, which increased by 30 per cent last year, are now up a further 22 per cent as a result of the tournament's popularity; the touring management must hope that their players do not let them down.

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND A: A Cashmore (Auckland); G Osborne (North Harbour); C Ralph (Auckland); J O'Halloran (Wellington); J Lomu (Counties); L Stearness (Auckland); R Duggan (Waikato); K Meles (Canterbury); N Hewitt (Southland, captain); K Meeuwis (Otago); B Larsen (North Harbour); N Maxwell (Canterbury); A Glovers (Auckland); S Robertson (Canterbury); X Rush (Auckland)

ENGLAND XV: T Beir (Sale); M Moore (Sale); N Goss (Northampton); Barendse (Sale); D Chapman (Richmond); J Lewsey (Gloucester); M Dawson (Northampton, captain); A Windo (Gloucester); P Greenwood (Gloucester); W Green (Worcester); R Filer (Gloucester); D Sims (Gloucester); P Clarke (Richmond); P Sanderson (Sale); S Ojomoh (Gloucester).
Referee: P O'Brien (Southland)

TOURNAMENT DETAILS

European qualifying tournaments (Nov-Dec 1998)

Group one: Scotland, Spain, Portugal (matches to be played at Murrayfield, Nov 28-Dec 5)

Group two: Ireland, Romania, Georgia (at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, Nov 14-22)

Group three: England, Italy, Holland (at McAlpine Stadium, Huddersfield, Nov 14-22)

FINAL STAGES (Oct 1-Nov 6, 1999)

POOL A: South Africa, Europe 3, Europe 4, Repechage 2 (matches to be played at Glasgow, Murrayfield, Glasgow)

POOL B: New Zealand, Europe 2, Europe 5, Repechage 1 (matches to be played at Twickenham, Bristol, Leicester, Huddersfield)

POOL C: France, Pacific 2, America 2, Africa 2 (matches to be played at Stades de France, Bordeaux, Toulouse)

POOL D: Wales, America 1, Pacific 3, Asia 1 (matches to be played at Cardiff, Wrexham, Llanelli)

POOL E: Pacific 1, Europe 1, America 3, Europe 6 (matches to be played at Dublin, Belfast, Limerick)

Quarter-final playoffs

West, Oct 20: Runners-up pool B v Runners-up pool C (match at Twickenham). Runners-up pool A v Runners-up pool D (match at Murrayfield). Runners-up pool E v Best third-placed team (match at Lansdowne Road).

Quarter-finals

Sat Oct 25: Winners pool D v Winners pool E (match at Cardiff). Sun Oct 26: Winners pool A v Winners match H (match at Paris). Winners pool B v Winners match G (match at Cardiff). Sun Oct 27: Winners match F v Winners match C v Winners match D (match at Twickenham).

New Zealand reject Cup link

DAVID MOFFETT, the New Zealand Rugby Football Union chief executive, described as "bizarre" yesterday hints that southern hemisphere teams could take part in the European Rugby Cup next season (David Hands writes). Moffett acknowledged that such suggestions had been made, but added: "It's ridiculous, we wouldn't even contemplate it."

Some European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC) officials have hinted

that the impasse with the leading clubs in England could be overcome by extending invitations to Super 12 teams. The English clubs will not take part in the competition, in which Bath are the holders, next season until the way the competition is run is restructured.

Rugby Football Union officials are still working to bring ERC and the clubs back together but so ingrained is the hostility, particularly

between the Celtic elements on the ERC board and club officials, that they are unlikely to be successful. To try to bring southern hemisphere teams into what should be the premier competition in Europe, and the expense that would entail, seems absurd.

"We already have a competition we think highly of," Moffett said, referring to the Super 12 tournament. "Why should we want to be involved in another?"

Stylish Todd has a slight edge on rivals

By JENNY MACARTHUR

MARK TODD, the dual Olympic gold medal-winner from New Zealand, took a slender 1.8-point lead over Constantijn van Rijkevorsel, of Belgium, the overnight leader, after a stylish dressage test on 11-year-old Stunning at the Bramham International Horse Trials in Yorkshire yesterday.

But there is little breathing space for Todd as the competition enters the demanding speed and endurance phase today. Chris Bartle, the former Olympic dressage rider, who won Badminton last month, is only just behind in third place, on Oscar, after a typically authoritative test and Ian Stark, the winner at Bramham two years ago, on Forest Glen, made an impressive British debut on Jaybee to move into fourth place.

Todd, 42, runner-up at Bramham last year on Broadcast News, his Open European champion, had a demanding day yesterday. Only an hour before his test he was helping to launch the new Professional Event Riders Association (Pera), of which he is president. Despite an abbreviated riding-in-time, he produced a beautifully relaxed test on Stunning, a New Zealand-bred gelding.

The imposing water

complex, the sixteenth of the 34 fences on the cross-country course, could prove influential today. Stunning has been wary of water since falling at the Puhimui event in New Zealand in 1996.

He fell again at Chantilly last year and had a refusal at Belton this spring. Todd remains optimistic, though. "We've done a lot of schooling into water and I think we've ironed out the problem," he said.

Bartle will also treat the water with respect. "He likes to have a look at it," he said of 11-year-old Oscar, who was bought originally to hunt by his owner, Anne Henson. Although he also had a run-out at an offset fence in Germany last year — similar to fences 12 and 13 on the course today — he has since redeemed himself with several faultless outings.

Stark, 44, who is still getting to know seven-year-old Jaybee, will be well tested today. At Puhimui last autumn, where Stark was trying to hunt him out, he took many of the easier routes, but Jaybee will not be so indulged today. "I think Mark Phillips has designed the course to be jumped straight," Stark said.

Results, page 42

Smith back on road to recovery

David Powell hears how a former world triathlon champion has finally come to terms with his father's terminal illness

By a tragic coincidence, British sport has a case to mirror the recent torment of Monica Seles. When Spencer Smith, the former world champion and present European champion, lines up for the Windsor triathlon tomorrow, he will be seeking his first victory since his father was struck down by cancer 11 months ago.

During his son's six years of rampant success, Bill Smith never missed a race, up to and including Spencer's European championship victory in Finland last July. Like Karoly Seles, who died of stomach cancer three weeks before his daughter showed extraordinary strength of character to reach the French Open women's singles tennis final last weekend, Bill was a driving force behind his offspring making it to the top in sport.

"It has always been me and him flying the world," Smith said. Now, while his father sees out his last days in a London hospital, the athlete is trying to pick up the threads of a career that has brought him three world titles, two senior and one junior, a European crown and modest wealth.

Prompted by his mother, who urged him to return to training, Smith has decided, bravely, to defend his European title in Velden, Austria, on July 5. It was while they were travelling back from the European championships to their training base in Spain last July that Bill complained of headaches. He collapsed some days later and was

rushed to hospital in Valencia, where a scan revealed a malignant brain tumour. "They operated and said they gave him only a few months, but he is still hanging on," Smith said. For months training was forgotten, most of Smith's time going into hospital visits. Then Barbara, his mother, set him back on the road.

"I told him that it was no good being here with Dad every day, that he had to get on with his life," he said. "It is his living and sponsors are good to a certain extent, but they will soon look elsewhere. I had to take Bill's role, be firm, and say: 'Get out there and get on with it.'"

Smith's three comeback races have hardly helped him

in his plight. He failed to make it to the start for the first one in Tampa, suffering a stomach virus; in the next, in St Croix, he was leading when his bicycle had a puncture; then, in Milan two weeks ago, Smith was left behind by a false start. By the time the officials had decided not to call back the race, Smith suffered a two-minute handicap.

"I was fortuitous, the lowest I have ever come in my life," he said. There was, though, at last, sunlight creeping into his darkened world. His taste for triathlon is returning and marriage is on the horizon.

Milan was unfortunate but not a write-off. "I needed the race, so the Italian champion and I decided to go in behind

the women," Smith said. "It was like a two-up time trial and he was not very strong, so I was dragging him round. My time on the bike was only about ten seconds slower than the fastest bike and I was only about ten seconds slower than the fastest runner."

Such is his progress that his first attempt at the Hawaii Ironman competition is a challenge that he is relishing. Not that he can get out of going to Hawaii. After swimming, cycling and running, he will be going walking — up the aisle with his fiancée, Melissa Simon.

First, though, to Windsor. It is a race that should test precisely how far back up the fitness scale he has travelled. In opposition will be Andrew Johns, the Australian who has switched allegiance to Britain, and who won the National Olympic distance title at Ellesmere last Sunday.

Smith's comments with regard to the group of Australians who have transferred to Britain this season, and who hope to wear British wetsuits at the Olympics, are more restrained than one imagines those of his father might be. Bill Smith was never one to retreat from controversy.

There was no outrage from Spencer, although he did suggest that the Australians had opted for passports of convenience. Nevertheless, "it does not worry me" was his dominant reaction. When a young man has been through what Smith has been through, such matters seem trivial.



Smith is rediscovering his passion for competition

Australia ready for bigger test from Scots

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

AFTER the comprehensive demolition of England in Brisbane last week, Australia are expecting a more testing match against Scotland this morning at the Sydney Football Stadium. Expectations are high as a result of the 76-0 victory that brutally exposed the inexperience of the England tour party.

Rod Macqueen, the Australia coach, spoke yesterday of the importance of not getting too carried away with last week's match. "He has named the same team that started against England to line-up against Scotland, who lost heavily in the first international of their tour, against Fiji last month."

Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, is confident that that defeat was merely a blip. "I think we can give Australia a surprise or two," he said. "A Scotsman tends to respond to hard work and adversity."

The pace at which the Wallabies played against England, however, suggests that his charges are in for a good deal of continuous tackling if they are to pose the home team any problems.

Ireland play the first international of their tour of South Africa this afternoon in Bloemfontein. The story of their tour thus far has been one of serious disappointment, as the strong provincial teams have picked them off with little difficulty. Added to their poor results is the fact that Ireland have never won an international in South Africa, their closest shave coming in 1981 when Naas Botha's boot condemned them to a 12-10 defeat.

South Africa are certain to operate at a pace with which Ireland will find hard to come to terms, a fact that Warren Gatland, the Ireland coach, acknowledged yesterday. "We have huge respect for South Africa," he said, "but if we are on our peak and catch them on an off-day, we might get the score down. It is also very important for us to keep up the challenge for 80 minutes."

That, one suspects, may be beyond Ireland.

Wales will have to do without the services of Scott Quinnell for the rest of their African tour. The Richmond No 8's calf injury will not heal in time for him to play any further part; Quinnell is the second player to leave the tour after David Weatherley, the Swansea full back, returned home this week with a knee injury. Quinnell will be replaced by Geraint Lewis, of Pontypridd.

AUSTRALIA: M Burke, B Tuns, D Herbert, T Moran, J Roff, S Larkham, G Greig, R Henry, R Kearns, A Baudry, T Stewart, J Haller, C Kouchi, M Coombes, D Hewitt, Kulu.

SCOTLAND: G Metcalfe, D Lee, C Murray, R Murray, G Morrison, B Ross, B Ross, D Hilton, G Bulloch, M Proudfoot, S Murray, S Cairns, R Wainwright (captain), S Stronach, E Beir.

SOUTH AFRICA: P Montgomery, S Terblanche, A Symon, P Muller, P Rossouw, G du Toit, J van der Walt, J van der Merwe, B Rossouw, B Rossouw, J Andrews, J Erasmus, A Venter, G Teichmann (captain).

IRELAND: J Best, P O'Connell, M McCall, D Hine, E Emond, C McGovern, J Fitzpatrick, N Wood, P Wallace, M O'Keefe, J Conboy, D O'Donnoghue, A Ward, V Costello.

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Scotts Audi Berkeley Square Sloane Square 0171 730 5432 0171 495 0000

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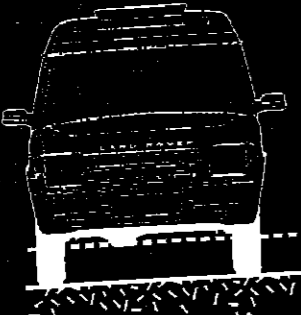
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FIG. 1. CLEARING OBSTACLES



Every Assured used Land Rover has to clear a full HPI check to ensure it's not stolen, written off or on finance.

FIG. 2. RAMP ANGLE



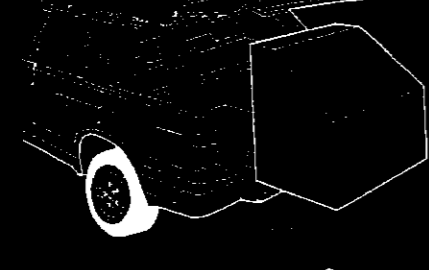
Before it's sold an Assured used Land Rover has to pass a comprehensive 114-point quality check.

FIG. 3. WADING DEPTH



Keep your head above water when buying an Assured used Land Rover by spreading your payments with our Freedom Finance package.

FIG. 4. LOADING CAPACITY



Every Assured used Land Rover also carries a 12-month warranty* and 1 year's free road-side assistance*.

For more information, and your free copy of Land Rover's Essential Guide to Choosing and Using Your 4x4 Vehicle, call 0800 110 110.

ASSURED LAND-ROVER

THE BEST 4x4x4xR

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY SELF DRIVE ROLLS-ROYCE AND BENTLEYS Drive in luxury all year round...

VOLVO 1998 Silver Spirit 1.8i 16V... BENTLEY Continental T... BENTLEY Turbo R LWB...

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY WANTED BENTLEY Rola... BENTLEY Rola... BENTLEY Rola...

SAAB AUTHORISED DEALERS A selection of quality used cars... SAAB 900 Convertible... SAAB 900...

SAAB 900 Convertible... SAAB 900... SAAB 900...

TVR 1998 TVR... TVR 900... TVR 900...

TOYOTA 1998 Land Cruiser... 1998 Land Cruiser... 1998 Land Cruiser...

VOLVO AUTHORISED VOLVO 1998 Volvo... 1998 Volvo... 1998 Volvo...

GRIFFIN 1998 Griffin... 1998 Griffin... 1998 Griffin...

TAMPLINS OF CROYDON 1998 Tamplins... 1998 Tamplins... 1998 Tamplins...

VOLVO 1998 Volvo... 1998 Volvo... 1998 Volvo...

TAMPLINS OF TWICKENHAM 1998 Tamplins... 1998 Tamplins... 1998 Tamplins...

VOLVO WANTED COUNTRY MOTORS... 1998 Volvo... 1998 Volvo...

VOLVO 1998 Volvo... 1998 Volvo... 1998 Volvo...

D. HILL TRADE VOLVO 940, V70, V40, S40 Six Months Old Save Thousands on New Car Price...

VOLKSWAGEN 1998 VW... 1998 VW... 1998 VW...

Scotts of Sloane Square 1998 Volvo... 1998 Volvo... 1998 Volvo...

GENERAL 1998 Volvo... 1998 Volvo... 1998 Volvo...

VOLKSWAGEN 1998 VW... 1998 VW... 1998 VW...

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Volkswagen at Dovercourt. BATTERSEA 1998 VW... 1998 VW... 1998 VW...

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Large advertisement on the right side of the page, partially cut off, with text like 'The ro for co' and 'Back'.

Don't drive on the edge. ADVANCED SAFARI... 1998 VW... 1998 VW...

ADVANCED SAFARI logo and text.

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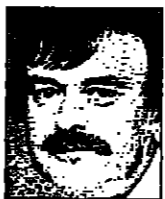
'Asking for directions is out of the question. There are six words the British male will not utter in any circumstances: I am lost, can you help?'

The route cause for complaint

There should be a GCSE course in the best way to travel from A to B. The British are exceptionally adept at poring over maps and arguing the relative merits of this route against that route. One of the reasons why there is a hard core of British people who never take a holiday that involves flying is that whatever merits an airline pilot may have, he is not liable to put the route to a vote of the passengers. Where's the fun in that?

Most Brits are deeply suspicious of holidays that involve climbing into a car and driving to somewhere in a straight line. If you don't need a map, what is the point of going? Not that British men would carry this argument too far: asking for directions on the journey is underway is absolutely out of the question. There are six words the British male will not

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

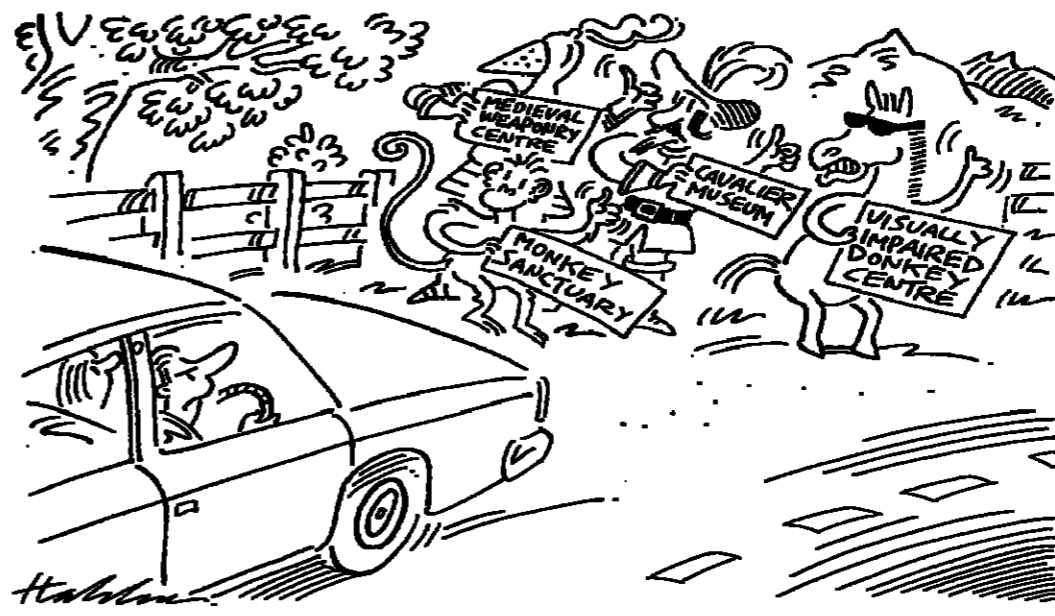
utter in any circumstances whatsoever: I am lost, can you help?

The great thing about route planning is that new factors are always coming into the equation. Travelling around the country used to be a fairly simple matter, assisted by direction signs and road numbers that always stood

out clearly. But in recent years a whole new industry has entered the driver's field of vision.

No one quite remembers when the heritage mob first decided to litter the roadside landscape with brown signs, but once the idea had taken root there was no stopping it. "Places of interest", indicated by the aforesaid brown sign with white lettering, are now marked roughly every 35 yards. At some junctions, they seem to have been breeding, to the point where they have more or less obliterated traditional signs to such minor landmarks as London and Manchester. Therefore, new ways have had to be found to describe routes. As ever, the British male will meet that challenge with relish.

Jimmy, recently retired to the West Country after selling his chain of North London Italian fast



food joints called *Hasta La Pasta*, sits in the corner of the snug at our local and asks sundry acquaintances how best he should go about the annual trip to his in-laws, who for some reason have chosen to live at Warslow in the Peak District.

The key part of this journey involves getting through the Midlands. We agree that Jimmy's first move should be to get on to the

A449 and stick with it all the way from the Coombe Hill Monkey Sanctuary to the Stackenbridge 13th-century Coaching Inn with Interesting 16th-century Additions, No Children Under 14. Although one of our number favours bypassing the inn by turning left just past the Last Penguin Reserve Before The M6 and rejoining the A449 at the Stourbridge Traction

Engine Centre (closed Mondays). Or would that mean reaching the northern side of Stourbridge just as traffic was building up for the annual West Midlands Festival of Coal Barges?

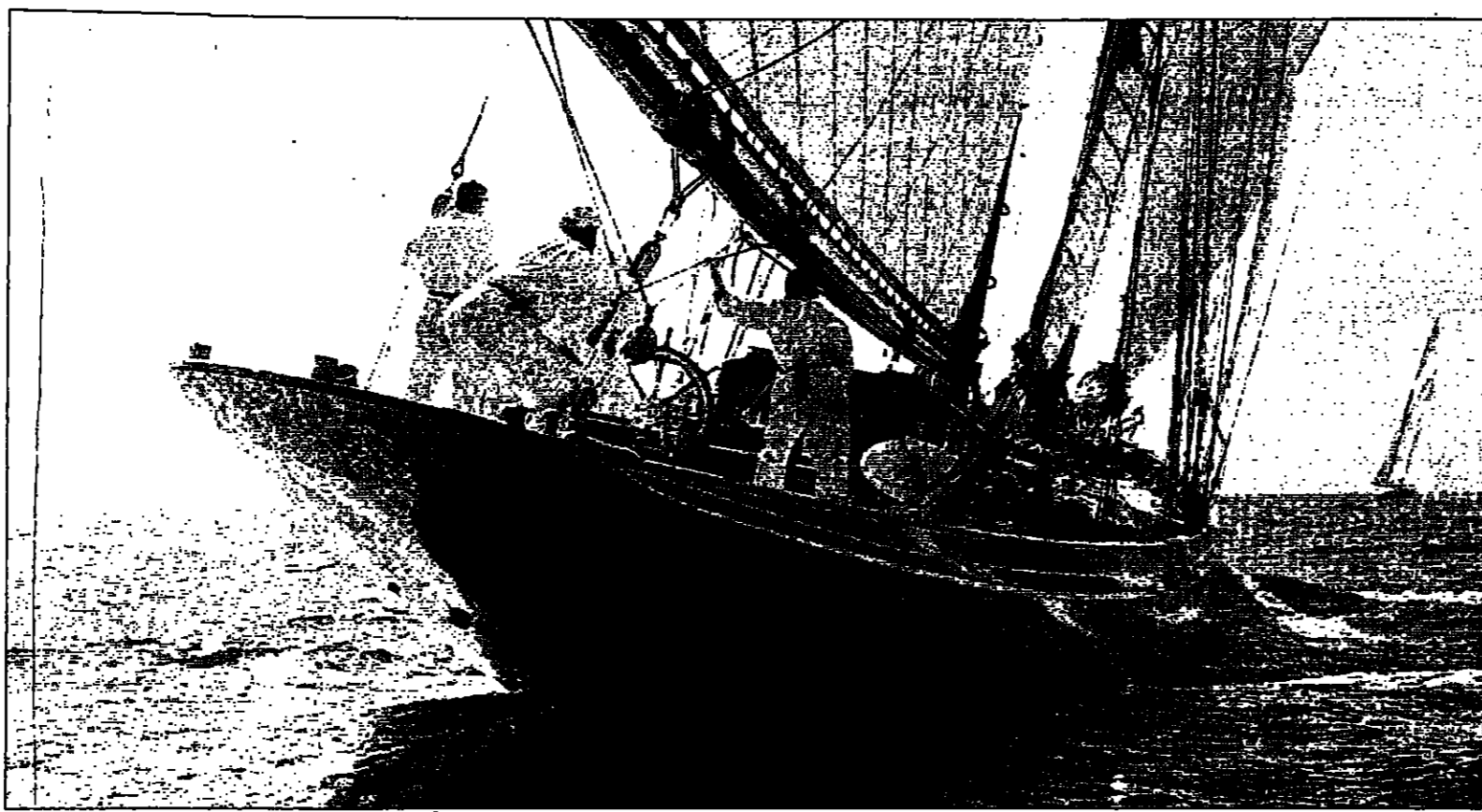
Jimmy thought he would chance it as he said, "anything is better than turning right at Crumbedown Mansion, Gardens and Adventure Park, Coaches by

Arrangement, only to find yourself caught in the queues heading for the Museum of Gunpowder and Medieval Weaponry at Dudley". Clearly, Jimmy had done this trip before.

Jimmy was a bit concerned about by-passing Stafford, which put him in a minority. He thought it might be best to drive straight through Stafford, then turn right towards the Staffordshire Fired Pottery Centre (Cream Teas, 4-4.30pm) and then turn left just before the Museum of Bone Artefacts, which would put him on the A520, heading for the Centre for Visually-Impaired Donkeys (Every Day, May to Sep) at Meir.

There was dissent about this plan, but I took Jimmy's side. I mean, what was the alternative? The only other option would have been to turn right at the 17th-century Watermill Come And Make A Loaf (No Dogs), and then left towards Ipstones, where you always risk hitting traffic going to the Cheadle Open Air Amphitheatre. A tough one to call.

Still, it seems to have worked out all right. We had a postcard from Jimmy this morning, saying that the one brown sign he could have done with, he couldn't find: World Cup Large Screen TV Here. They'll get around to it, Jimmy.



We are sailing: Fife yachts combine elegance of line with luxury, the product of the best craftsmanship in the world

Back in home waters

Almost 100 years since they left the sheltered waters of the Firth of Clyde for the Mediterranean, the world's finest Victorian racing yachts will return to the west coast of Scotland for the first time this week.

It promises to be a spectacular homecoming. Against the backdrop of Killybegs a fleet of more than a dozen yachts, designed and built by the Fife dynasty in the nearby village of Fairlie, will take part in a six-day regatta organised by Alastair Houston, an artist and self-confessed "yacht bum".

There are about 80 yachts built by Fife still in existence, owned by sailing enthusiasts such as Prince Albert of Monaco and King Juan Carlos of Spain. The boats are worth £3-4 million and cost thousands to maintain. The most lovingly preserved yachts, including the 100-year-old Pen Duick owned by French sailing star Eric Tabarly, and Prince Albert's boat, Tuga, are expected to attend the historic gathering on the Clyde.

Unlike modern yachts, which are compact and made from reinforced plastic, the ones designed by William Fife are up to 120ft long and made of wood. They were once described as the Stravinsky of sailing boats. Their builder always insisted that if a yacht was air, she would also be fast.

William Fife was different from

Gillian Harris on the stylish homecoming of Victorian racing yachts to the Clyde

other designers," says Mr Houston. "He would form a shape which was pleasing to the eye. That is what all his boats have in common. They make modern yachts look quite clumsy."

The idea for the Fife Regatta came to 32-year-old Houston when he was on board a Fife yacht in Monaco two years ago. It was a still day and the crew were waiting for a breeze to allow them to race. Houston wondered: why not hold a race in Scotland where there is an abundance of wind?

The regatta will be reminiscent of a bygone era on the Clyde. At the turn of the century the deep Firth provided the perfect playground for wealthy merchants from Glasgow, Kings and Kaisers joined industrialists and aristocrats to race yachts from Helensburgh to Ailsa Craig.

"The Clyde was a great centre of yachting for those with plenty of disposable income," says Mr Houston. "There was a lot of money about and that's why an industry grew up."

Among those who sailed on the Clyde was Sir Thomas Lipson, the tea merchant, who owned a 200ft-long Fife yacht called Shamrock. "It was more like a ship, but he used it as a massive

toy in which he could have fun," he says.

Dr William Collier, a yacht historian who runs a boatyard in Hamble, Hampshire which restores Fife yachts, believes that the Clyde was the ideal spot for rich sportsmen. "The vast expanse of the Firth of Clyde was a natural nursery for yachting," he says. "Among its deep, sheltered waters are lochs, islands and inlets offering a myriad of venues for the amateur sailor."

Yachtsmen would congregate at Lord Glasgow's Kelburn Estate at Fairlie after a day's racing. This week the current Earl of Glasgow, the regatta's patron, will uphold the tradition by hosting a barbecue on Saturday evening for the 150 guests from across Europe who are expected to attend the regatta.

The First World War brought an abrupt end to yachting in Scotland, and in the Twenties wealthy sailors drifted south. Soon there were no Fife yachts left on the Clyde. They were scattered around the world, identifiable only by their distinctive elegance. Although he grew up in Largs, only a

few miles from Fairlie, Mr Houston first learnt about Fife yachts on a visit to Palma, Majorca. "Until then, as far as I was concerned, the fanciest yachts were the ones with lots of shiny metal. Then one day I was on board a yacht like that and I leaned over the side to see another boat, an absolutely beautiful piece of wooden sculpture."

"I asked the two Americans on board what it was and they said it was a Fife. They couldn't believe that I was Scottish and didn't know about Fife of Fairlie, the most famous boat builder in the world."

In the past 15 years there has been a resurgence of interest in Fife yachts everywhere but Scotland, and builders have been restoring the yachts to their former glory before displaying them in Mediterranean ports.

Seeing the Scottish boats so far from home prompted Mr Houston to push on with the regatta. "They are a forgotten part of our heritage and I think it is important for people who live near the Clyde to see these beautiful boats so that they can appreciate that they were made in Scotland. The craftsmanship was the best in the world," he says.

"I have a passion for Fife's boats and so do many others. It will be a great moment to see them racing up the River Clyde and know that they are back where they belong."

Safe, reliable and near sexy Volvo

Volvo has finally shaken off the mantle of solid, stolid vehicles driven by people with no real affection for cars. Until relatively recently they were big, safe and sensible; shorthanded for incredibly dull. But Volvo has re-created itself after the collapse of the corporate altar of the ill-starred 1994 marriage to Renault.



The Volvo S80, a new turn for the Swedish carmaker

Now comes the biggest shock to a generation of Volvo owners: the S80. Peter Horbury, an Englishman who is Volvo's chief designer, says: "We make family cars and there's no point in having a driver's car where only the driver feels at home." Mexican Jose Diaz de la Vega, the man in charge of interiors at multicultural Volvo, takes it a stage further. "I wanted it to be like stepping into your favourite living room, a complete atmosphere where everyone is involved."

The S80 has a real authority on the road — the presence of a Jaguar. The protruding snout shouts Volvo; the rest is only slightly more subtle: the stepped, sculpted waistline and neatly observed tail with its distinctive shoulders.

But the real revelation is on the inside. The S80 retains the build, integrity and sense of security, but lacks the funereal, dark ambience of bygone Volvos. Everything, from the telephone to the navigation system and the air-conditioning controls, is properly integrated. There is ample storage space.

In an industry first, the S80 has air vents mounted on the

- VOLVO S80**
- 2.9 litre: £27,630
 - Twin-turbo 2.8 litre T6 (272bhp): £36,230
 - Five-cylinder, 2.4 litre (140bhp): £22,155
 - 2.4 litre 170bhp variant: £24,255
 - 2.5 litre TDI (five-cylinder diesel, supplied by Audi): £24,355

are part of the standard package. With its life-preserving pedigree, it amounts to what Volvo claims is the safest car that it, or any other manufacturer, has ever built.

The amount of space for people and possessions is enhanced by under-the-bonnet packaging. A straight-six-cylinder engine, mounted transversely and linked to the world's shortest manual gearbox gives the benefit of compactness and, of course, front-wheel drive.

The S80 is impressive in an efficient, but rather clinical, Scandinavian way. A 94-mile loop around Gothenburg, Volvo's home city, proved it to be extremely quiet, quick in 2.9 litre, 204bhp form, sure-footed with plenty of grip from the front wheels, and with precise feedback through the steering wheel.

It is a car designed for long-distance cruising which also has a dynamic personality. The S80 goes on sale in the UK this September.

ANTHONY LEWIS

COMPANY CAR DRIVER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

THE SALES force working for a leading supplier of scientific equipment were so keen to enter the *Times* Leaseplan Company Car Driver of the Year competition that they held a contest among themselves to select the entrants. Tony Dwyer writes.

The three winners from Blomereux UK travelled to Swindon last week for the final heat of the competition and their leader, Richard Mallett, beat the field to take first place.

"It was the first time we had entered," he said, "and most of our sales team, who drive about 35,000 miles a year on business, wanted to take part, so it was the fastest way of choosing the team."

"During the heat, I was caught out by a Highway Code question

and wasn't sure how well I had done in the braking test. I didn't expect to win and was overcome by a sudden silence when I heard my name called out."

Mallett, a sales specialist from Maidstone, Kent, was accompanied by colleagues, Stephen Tompkins and Pamela Walker, who had driven from Edinburgh to take part. He was the 12th and last driver to reach the final which will be staged at Silverstone on June 25.

In the previous heat at Swindon, Andy Price, an engineer with Permabond, the Hampshire-based adhesive manufacturer, reached his second final in three years, achieving near-perfect marks for on-road driving, manoeuvring and route planning.



Andy Price: "near perfect"

The shareholders have made their stand, but can VW deliver?

In months to come, the shareholders who voted for a Volkswagen takeover of Britain's most famous car company can consider what they have done.

BMW bowed aside in the dash for cash — mainly by institutional investors — is almost certain to halt the supply of engines and equipment now that its rival has won the takeover battle.

Was there any sense to the shareholders' decision? Only that they picked up £90 million more from VW than they would have done from BMW.

The question that they didn't seem to ask was whether a VW big was good for Rolls-Royce, which has spent the best part of a decade glueing together an alliance with BMW, which would naturally have spilled over into a takeover. BMW supplies all the engines for both R-R and Bentley cars... but not for much longer.

VW probably has a year at

As the battle for Rolls-Royce ends, Kevin Eason considers the future of this national treasure

best in which to find an engine that will fit happily under the bonnets of its new charges, and to make them as good as the BMW engines.

But VW knows it is now on trial: if it lets Rolls-Royce down, it will never be forgiven in this country. The cars might have lost their sheen as the world's best and the company has been outdated since the war, but it remains a national treasure.

Unhappily, this takeover comes as the company enjoys a period of innovative, strong management. Uncertainty is just what they did not want.

It does not have to be like that. As Ford has proved with its British charges: Jaguar and Aston Martin. Both are enjoying record sales and

huge expansion, as Ford has operated a largely "hands-off" approach, allowing British management and British designers to exercise their full talents.

There seems little chance that VW will not want to interfere substantially in a company that has almost a century's tradition of car-making and unparalleled skills in producing the unique character of cars that probably cannot compete with German technology, but are far superior for their personality and sheer, awesome comfort.

But what is the point of argument? The greed of the City has dictated the outcome of yet another takeover that erodes further the truly British nature of the motor indus-

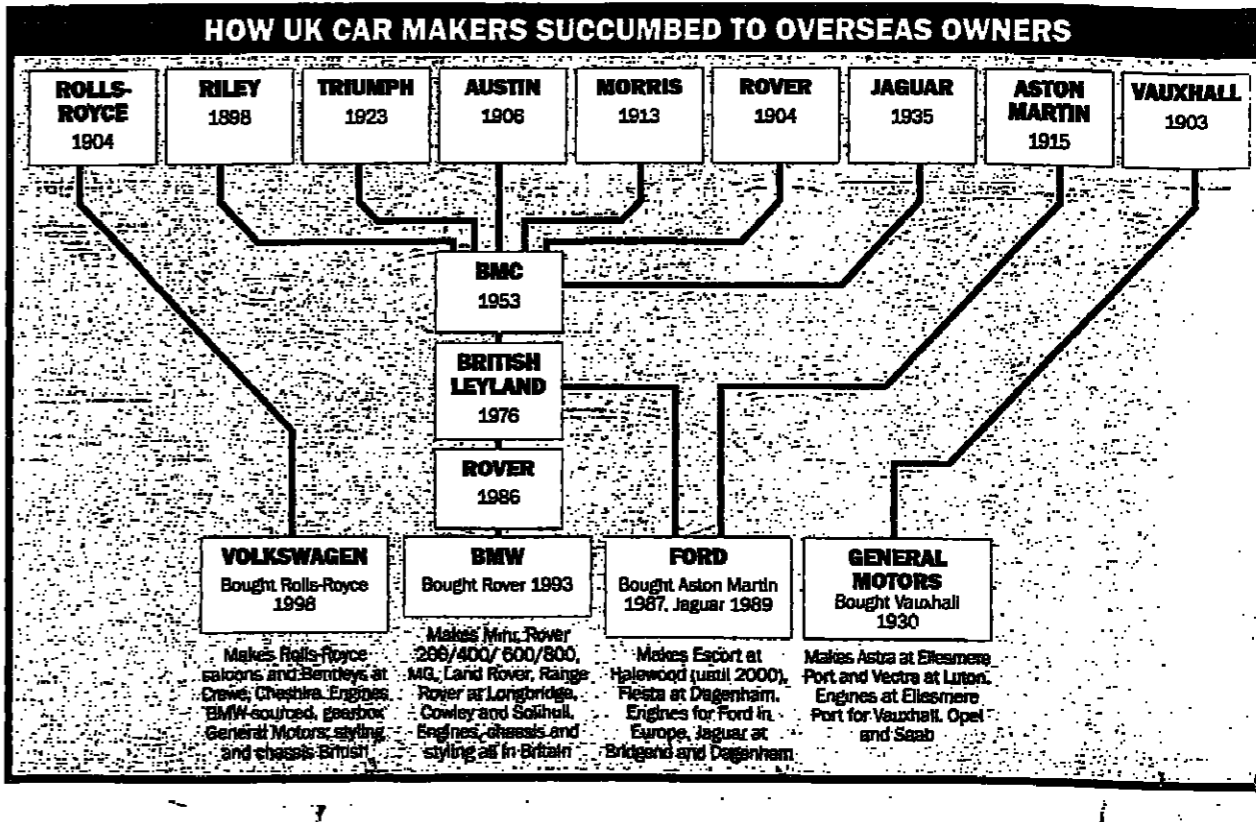
try, one of the nation's biggest employers and an industry that was pioneered here.

Historically, Britain has always welcomed industrial invaders: Ford is now widely regarded as British while Vauxhall's role as an outpost of General Motors was underlined recently when the American multi-national threatened the future of the huge Luton plant, in production since 1905.

We welcomed with open arms Japan's Big Three — Toyota, Honda and Nissan — and they are helping to re-establish Britain's importance as a car-manufacturing nation from bases here.

But we are in danger of losing that entrepreneurial ability to design and develop cars which made marques such as Rolls-Royce, MG, Jaguar and Aston Martin famous.

Rolls-Royce might have been our last stand; time, and the activities of VW, will tell.



50 QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Bow to the arts across the board

Those used to plaudits from the public are delighted at receiving official recognition, reports Dalya Alberge

TWO of the Government's staunchest supporters were among the roll-call of arts figures honoured yesterday. There were knights for the playwrights David Hare, whose dramas include Sly-lyght, and John Mortimer, the barrister who created television's Rumple series.

While Mr Hare once described himself as "an absolute mainstream Labour Party member", he is not afraid to criticise it. Sir John is a lifelong supporter.

lan Holm, 66, the Shakespearean actor, received a knighthood. More than 20 years after he had a breakdown on stage that kept him out of the theatre for three years, his performances have attracted rave reviews, with critics hailing his interpretation of Lear as one of the best. Holm, who is in Canada filming David Cronenberg's



Leslie Phillips, left, who becomes an OBE; June Whitfield, who is made a CBE, and lan Holm, who is knighted

72, star of several Carry On films, the 1970s sitcom Terry and June and more recently the hugely successful Absolutely Fabulous, was made a CBE. She has already been awarded the OBE for her services to showbusiness in 1985. "I think it's just wonder-

ful," she said yesterday. "I think it's for all my work in the entertainment business — and for staying the course."

Ms Whitfield's career has spanned five decades. She made her name on BBC radio's Take It From Here — she was Eh in The Glums



The great and good are not forgotten

By Alan Hamilton

A FREE CHURCH minister leads a strong representation of the great and good, traditionally the core of honours lists.

The Rev Kathlee Richardson, 60, moderator of the Free Churches Council, is created a life peer and becomes the first ordained woman to sit in the House of Lords. Baroness Richardson became the first woman president of the Methodist Conference the nonconformist equivalent of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Knighthoods go to Professor Joseph Rothbarth who recently called for an international ethical committee to control cloning; to John Hodgson, chief constable of Hampshire; and to Robert Malpas, the engineer behind Eurounnel.

Lord Marshall, the chairman of British Airways, was awarded a life peerage. Vernon Bagdonor, Professor of Government at Oxford University, and a leading authority on authority, is created CBE, as is Piers Gough, one of the most innovative of contemporary architects.

Trade unions are not forgotten. An OBE goes to Barry Leathwood, an official of the TGWU and leader of the workers' side of the Agricultural Wages Board.

John Wilkins, the long-serving editor of The Tablet, the weekly Roman Catholic newspaper, is made an MBE for services to religious journalism. Lord Harris of Greenwich, Liberal Democrat chief whip in the Lords, becomes a Privy Counsellor.

IT COULD BE YOUR NOMINATION. IF YOU KNOW someone who deserves an honour, contact the Nominations Unit in Whitehall for a form on 0171-276 2771/2778 (Valerie Elliot writes). The individual may be famous throughout Britain or unknown beyond their village, but they must have shown exceptional service.

PRINCIPAL HONOURS. LIFE PEERS. Richardson, the Rev Kathleen Margaret, OBE, Moderator, Free Churches' Council. Barons. Burns, Sir Terence, GCB, Permanent Secretary, HM Treasury.

KNIGHTS BACHELOR. Bates, Malcolm Rowland, for services to industry. Birt, John, Director-General, BBC, for services to broadcasting.

ORDER OF THE BATH. Strachan, Mrs Valerie Patricia, CBE, chairman, HM Board of Customs and Excise.

ORDER OF ST MICHAEL AND ST GEORGE. A Bennett, chief resources adviser. Dept of Industry, for services to industry.

OBE. Commanders of the Order of the British Empire. D Allaway, policy mgr, DSS. Mrs L M Beecher, serv natl heritage & env, A P Bell, Liverpool Hill Auth, serv natl heritage & env.

DCB. Strachan, Mrs Valerie Patricia, CBE, chairman, HM Board of Customs and Excise.

CMG. A Bennett, chief resources adviser. Dept of Industry, for services to industry.

OBE. Officers of the Order of the British Empire. W R Alcock, serv natl heritage & env, A Bennett, chief resources adviser.

MBE. Members of the Order of the British Empire. P Abbott, Standards mgr, Railtrack, for services to industry.

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Nursin lead an tribute

LONG-SERVING nurses and midwives dominate the list of honours for the health service. Some of the recipients related their stories. Top of the list is Betty Evans, who has been nursing for 40 years.

From facing page... Betty Evans, who has been nursing for 40 years. Some of the recipients related their stories. Top of the list is Betty Evans, who has been nursing for 40 years.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, with columns for bid, offer, and % change.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY SHOP Special home Divorce The Tracking perform YES

SHOPPING AROUND 56

Special offer or standard rate? The home loan dilemma

WEEKEND MONEY

GAMBLING MAN 62

You must know the odds to pull off a £30,000 bet



Divorce and the World Cup

Sarah Anticoni gets out her lawyer's red card

The Government continues to focus on arrangements for the ending of marriages. First came suggestions that ministers were considering making prenuptial contracts legal...

to support one of five options, namely, adultery by the other person (called the respondent), unreasonable behaviour of the respondent; desertion by the respondent; that husband and wife have lived apart for two years and that the other person, the respondent, consents to a divorce or a period of separation exceeding five years.

Will this change with "no fault" divorce?

Yes. From April 2000 the spouse seeking a divorce will need to attend an "information meeting" where they will obtain information as to the process and options available...

What grounds for divorce are there?

At present there is only one ground for divorce, namely, the irremediable breakdown of a marriage. The Family Law Act 1996, which is unlikely to come into force until April 2000, will retain this ground and will simply change the process by which a divorce can be obtained.

How can one prove in court a marriage has irretrievably broken down?

In a petition for divorce, the person who is seeking the divorce (the petitioner) needs to set out in writing facts

How bad does the behaviour have to be to get a divorce granted?

At present, a spouse will have had to have behaved in such a way that the person seeking the petition cannot reasonably be expected to live with them. What is unreasonable will depend upon each case. A court will have regard to the history of the marriage and the individuals involved.

Does it make a difference if I tell my spouse how offensive I find the behaviour?

Yes. If one half finds certain conduct unreasonable and communicates this to their spouse, what is objectively reasonable, may become unreasonable.

I am being divorced on the grounds of my unreasonable behaviour, the details of which I deny. Will I be punished financially?

No. The courts have separate criteria by which they decide how financial assets of the family are to be divided on the breakdown of a marriage. The question of conduct is only one of the criteria.

Will the behaviour of either spouse be taken into account when dividing assets, or only the person who is being "divorced"?

The behaviour of either spouse may be taken into account, irrespective of who is divorcing whom, if the court thinks it would be inequitable

Any conduct, active or passive, may constitute unreasonable behaviour. It may be that a three-week intensive football watching binge over the World Cup season, accumulating with a general lack of interest in the other spouse, making that person feel isolated and rejected, would satisfy a court. Indeed, a series of acts each of which in itself is reasonable (watching England matches; supporting a league team by attending home and away matches; playing five-a-side football; coaching a son's football squad) may constitute unreasonable behaviour if its total effect is unreasonable (no time spent with spouse).

to disregard conduct. Courts are obliged to consider conduct as a factor when dividing financial assets. In practice, they rarely hold one party to blame for marriage breakdown. Violence which ends in hospital and the dissipating of financial assets deliberately to avoid the other's claims may constitute conduct. But isolated acts of adultery or forgetting a wedding anniversary or the children's birthdays because England have reached a crucial stage in the competition, would not.

What other factors does the court have to take into account when deciding financial arrangements?

The court considers each spouse's age, income, earning capacity, property and other financial resources at the time or what is likely in the future. It also considers financial needs, obligations and responsibilities now or in the foreseeable future; the family's standard of living before the breakdown; length of marriage; physical or mental disabilities and contributions each party has made, or is likely to make, to family welfare.

The behaviour of either spouse may be taken into account, irrespective of who is divorcing whom, if the court thinks it would be inequitable

Some men think it quite reasonable to watch football for three weeks while being waited upon



Some men think it quite reasonable to watch football for three weeks while being waited upon

Sarah Anticoni is a partner and mediator with Campbell Hooper, solicitors.

Government moves on pension assets

This week, the Government took the first step towards allowing divorcing couples to divide pension assets at the moment of divorce.

The draft Bill, which is expected to become law by the year 2000, lays down broad proposals about splitting up the pension at the moment of divorce. Until now, divorcing couples have had the option of "sarnarking" pension benefits. Under these proposals, the pension is actually divided at retirement, rather than at the moment of divorce.

The Bill aims to combat the problem of impoverishment in old age for divorced women, who may have been financially reliant on

their husband to provide them with a pension. About 50,000 women a year are expected to benefit from the proposals.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, said that the measures would provide official recognition of the enormous contribution made to men's careers by wives that stayed at home to deal with domestic responsibilities.

She said: "This draft Bill recognises the fact that women are more likely than men to be poor in retirement because it is harder for

women to build up a decent pension in her own right."

Those who have been campaigning to improve women's rights welcomed the move by the Government. Dawn Barnett, founder of Fairshares, an organisation endeavouring to give women a better deal, said: "If you had said five years ago that we would have got to this position today, I would not have believed it."

The proposals on pensions splitting at divorce, however, have drawn fire from top pensions

lawyers. For example, Robin Ellison, a pensions lawyer with Eversheds, attacked the Government for producing rules that are so complicated they are almost impossible to implement. Mr Ellison said: "The rules are about 70 pages long. It is far too complicated."

He said that he had hoped that the Government would have produced proposals that were at most six pages long. He added: "They really should start again."

One of the problems with a

complicated system for splitting pensions at divorce. Mr Ellison claims, is that divorcing couples could be forced to seek financial advice, this could add to the costs and the complexity of the system.

If the proposals become law, then spouses with partners in company schemes, public sector schemes or the State earning related pension scheme, will be able to take a cash transfer from their husband's pension to put in to their own pension, or they will

be given the option of leaving their part of the pension where it is until they are old enough to draw the benefit.

Pension sharing will not be compulsory, but the courts will decide whether it should be used. The costs of pensions splitting will be borne by the divorcing couple. The Government estimates that pensions splitting at divorce will cost about £700.

Sallie Quin, who is a member of Fairshares, is one person that the new law would have helped. Ms

Quin's marriage broke up nearly seven years ago. She did not have her own pension. Her divorce settlement included the equity in the family home and endowment policy. She went back to work to pay the remaining mortgage on the property. Due to ill health she was forced on to benefits. She said: "My husband's assets including the pension were about £250,000, of which I only received £50,000."

Her ex-husband is now remarried, his second wife will benefit from the entire widow's pension despite the recentness of the marriage.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Advertisement for 'The Index-Tracking PEP' by Legal & General. It highlights the fund's performance, lack of initial charges, and provides contact information for further details.

Advertisement for 'The European Growth Trust' by Friends Provident. It features a large 'X239%' graphic and promotes the trust's performance and tax benefits.

Psychologists will put forward differing views as to why the nation may be happy to spend £100 million next week betting on various sporting events. But one thing is beyond speculation. The Chancellor, despite his support for Scotland, is unlikely to have made more than the most modest investment at Lord's. Building World Cup accounts with assured payouts are more his thing.

Next April, when the Individual Savings Account makes its debut, Gordon Brown would like those who currently do not follow his savings habit. However, many will be as sceptical about the ISA as they were about the National Lottery. For the month that Mr Brown has built up around the ISA is crumbling fast. Geoffrey Robinson, the Postmaster General, began the work of demobilisation and now Helen Lidell, the Economic Secretary, is finishing the job.

Swift a pe

People who have transferred their pension funds to a new provider in the past few months have been told that they should be prepared to wait a while before they can cash in their pension. But the good news is that if you are planning to cash in your pension, you should be able to do so. The minimum amount which a pensioner has to cash in is £10,000. If you have a pension of £10,000 or more, you can cash in your pension in a lump sum or in a series of payments. If you have a pension of less than £10,000, you can cash in your pension in a lump sum or in a series of payments. The minimum amount which a pensioner has to cash in is £10,000. If you have a pension of £10,000 or more, you can cash in your pension in a lump sum or in a series of payments. If you have a pension of less than £10,000, you can cash in your pension in a lump sum or in a series of payments.

This week's best-performing fund is the Aberdeen Divers International, which has risen 19.8 per cent since the start of the year. The fund is managed by Aberdeen Asset Management. The fund's performance is due to its investment in high-growth stocks. The fund's manager, John Gifford, has been praised for his investment strategy. The fund's performance is a testament to the fund manager's skill and the fund's investment strategy.

Childish

When 7-year-old Leah Chandler received her Abbey National bank card, she was told that she should be prepared to wait a while before she could cash in her pension. But the good news is that if you are planning to cash in your pension, you should be able to do so. The minimum amount which a pensioner has to cash in is £10,000. If you have a pension of £10,000 or more, you can cash in your pension in a lump sum or in a series of payments. If you have a pension of less than £10,000, you can cash in your pension in a lump sum or in a series of payments.

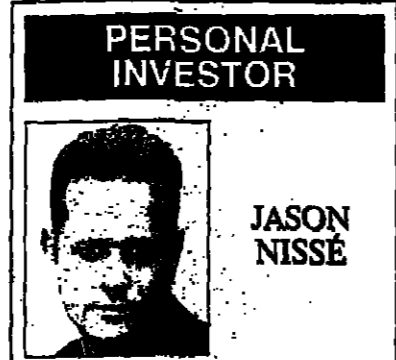
September song for Sema?

The champagne will have to stay on ice at the Central London HQ of Sema Group. On Wednesday the Anglo-French computer services company narrowly failed to join Les Cent Pieds, losing out in the three-monthly scramble to become a member of the UK's corporate elite to a revitalised WPP and a "going like a train" Stagecoach. Still its market capitalisation is getting close to an astonishing £3 billion and there's always the next quarter. Given the phenomenal growth of Sema - £1 invested in Sema three years ago would be worth £9 today - the FTSE 100 is clearly beckoning.

Sema is perhaps the largest company you have never heard of. What it does people rarely see and, in a sense, if it does what it does as well as it should, you should not know it is there. Its business is installing and running computer and telecommunications systems for companies, government agencies, local authorities and the like.

And this is a sector growing apace because of worries about the Year 2000 bug, conversions to EMU and because, as Gordon Brown showed on Thursday, the Labour Party seems to be as keen on privatisation as its Tory predecessors. By contracting out, the cost of large capital projects can be spread out over the life of the project rather than having to pay for it all up front - something that is particularly attractive to a tight-fisted Treasury. According to recent estimates, growth in the computer services sector is running at about 16 per cent a year. In Sema's corner of the market, the growth rate is even higher.

The kings of that business are EDS, a Texan company with an intriguing history. Set up by H Ross Perot - he of the failed attempts to become President of the United States despite his homely aphorisms - EDS grew on the back of a



PERSONAL INVESTOR
JASON NISSE

series of contracts with General Motors to help to sort out the car maker's legendary inefficiency. Eventually GM realised it was spending so much with EDS that it should buy the company. Perot left in the mid-1980s and with him went some of the more extreme features of the company - such as insisting employees shave off any beards.

A couple of years ago GM decided to spin the group off and, despite some profit warnings which have given the group the nickname Ever Decreasing Sales, it has a market capitalisation of more than £10 billion. In the UK it has won a series of high profile government contracts - the largest being the Inland Revenue back office work which could ultimately be worth more than £2 billion and the latest being the employment service - and estimates that over half its £1 billion a year of revenues in the UK come from the Government.

Someone at EDS recently described Sema, distastefully, as a "small business". But EDS knows better. It beat Sema for the deal to be the official information technology suppliers to this World Cup - a prize Sema held for the last cup in the US and for Euro 96. Also the two are among the competitors for a

potential £10 billion worth of business which could come from a giant, and overdue, stake-up of the Benefits Agency, the £2.4 billion a year monster which administers social security payments.

The way the agency has been handing out contracts - on a rather piecemeal basis - means that there seems quite enough business to go round. In addition to EDS and Sema, others eyeing the Benefits Agency feeding frenzy include Capita Group (valued at £1 billion these days) and Logica (which is worth £1.3 billion). Other public-sector work coming up includes the privatisation of the back office of National Savings (which is now a face off between EDS and Siemens of Germany), a giant information technology deal for the police force, an as-yet unsigned contract for a new ticketing system at London Underground and, most intriguingly, the privatisation of that National Air Traffic Services. On top of this, any local council with sense is taking a good hard look at their administration systems and even quite left wing authorities - like Sheffield City Council - are signing deals with private-sector firms.

This flurry of new business has not gone unnoticed by the giants in the computer services industry. IBM has invested fortunes in building its share of the cake. Microsoft has struck a deal with ICL to attack the sector - and estimates that over half its £1 billion a year of revenues in the UK come from the Government.

Someone at EDS recently described Sema, distastefully, as a "small business". But EDS knows better. It beat Sema for the deal to be the official information technology suppliers to this World Cup - a prize Sema held for the last cup in the US and for Euro 96. Also the two are among the competitors for a

Helen Pridham explains how to assess a Pep portfolio

Easy ways to make your fund multiply



Most of us are rather lazy about our finances and Pep investors are no exception. Once an investment has been made, there is a tendency to let it run. "As long as their Peps are going up in value, people are often content to leave them alone, even though they could be making much better gains elsewhere," says Jason Hollands of independent financial advisers, Best Investment Managers. "There are some misconceptions, too. Ian Millward, editor of Chase de Vere's PEPguide, says: "Investors are told to regard Peps as a medium to long-term investment so they often end up ignoring their holdings when they should review them every six to twelve months."

Some investors are unaware how easy it is to transfer past Peps and may be concerned about the effect on the tax position of their plans. But as Christina Harry of financial advisers, the Allenbridge Group, points out: "There is very little hassle involved. All the investor has to do is to complete a transfer form and the money then passes between the Pep managers. The tax status is unchanged."

Cost may be another consideration. However, this can be minimised by conducting the transfer through an intermediary willing to give a discount. In the case of unit trust Peps, discounts can reduce the cost of the new fund to 1 per cent or even zero. In any case, better performance in a different Pep could soon outweigh any costs.

Reviewing your investments regularly is always worthwhile but, with ISAs looming, there is more reason to hone your Pep portfolio. If a freeze is put on Peps, as the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (AUTIF) is hoping, it may become more difficult to rearrange holdings. Many financial advisers offer review services but here are some pointers:



Lazy days can mean investments may become neglected

worst managed only 15 per cent. To help investors to identify unit trusts that have performed badly over three years, Best Investment Managers has produced a Spot the Dog guide, available free on 0171-321 0100.

ONE MANAGER: If you have taken out a Pep with the same company year after year, you should consider moving at least some of your holdings to different managers. However, good a company may be, it won't be the best in every investment area. Those who

the other extreme dogmatically chosen a particular Pep manager every year for themselves and their spouse. This can make it very difficult to monitor the performance of all your investments. With four or five plan managers for household, keeping track will be easier. Managers favoured by independent advisers include Credit Suisse,idelity, Garrmore, Jupiter, Lawson, Perpetual and Schroder.

WIDE SPREAD: Echoing the experience of many advisers, Ian Millward of Chase de Vere says: "We often find that investors with several Peps have concentrated on UK funds only. It is better to have a balance. We recommend having around 55 per cent of your overall portfolio in the UK, 15 to 20 per cent in Europe, the same in the US and 5 to 10 per cent in the Far East." So if you've heavily invested in the UK, consider putting some of your Peps into other areas. You can switch to another fund offered by your existing Pep manager.

MEET OBJECTIVES: dependent financial advisers, Best Investment Managers, says: "Investors should set their Peps for the long term. For example, if you have three years before you need the money, you should invest in a fund that coincides with the end of the Pep year. Many of them have gone to a 'dog'." I have found that investors in these trusts often don't understand what they have got and basically want something more conservative. They may be better off transferring to a lower risk fund, such as an equity/bond unit trust." Best Investment Managers says highly specialist trusts may also fail to meet investor expectations.

CONSOLIDATE GAINS: If you are approaching retirement and your existing Pep investments have made good progress, now may be the time to consider consolidating your gains. Ian Millward of Chase de Vere says: "With stock markets riding high, existing Pep investors may want to consider locking in their gains by transferring to a capital protected plan such as the one offered by HSBC." HSBC's scheme requires you to invest for five and a half years to get the full benefit, but there are other protected funds available from managers such as AIB Coventry and Scottish Widows. Another alternative if you intend to start drawing an income soon would be to switch to a corporate bond Pep where capital movements are unlikely to be as volatile as in a share Pep.

OVER-DIVERSITY: Some investors have gone to

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| Ely Place Income | £136.80 | 24.8 |
| Quilter High Income Portfolio | £138.72 | 23.6 |
| M&G UK Equity | £138.85 | 23.5 |
| Saile Clifford Income | £143.60 | 22.9 |
| Lincoln UK Capital Growth | £148.04 | 18.4 |
| Prudential Equity Income | £150.57 | 17.0 |
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| FT All-Share Index | £151.51 | 00.0 |

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Legal & General

A home and income for those in later life

Many people find themselves in the position of owning a valuable asset but not having enough income for the kind of life they had hoped to lead in retirement. Being able to use your home to increase your income could make all the difference to thousands of pensioners. According to Age Concern, millions of pounds could be unlocked.

Using Your Home as Capital, published today, suggests two well tried ways to increase regular income, and considers one newer idea.

Home Income Plans: Technically mortgage annuity schemes, these involve taking out a mortgage on part of the value of your property and using this lump sum to buy an annuity.

Home Reversion Plans: These involve selling all or part of a property to a reversion company.

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The 20th edition of Age Concern's *Your Taxes and Savings*, is indispensable reading for anyone who is already retired and looking at how to maximise their income, people who want to plan for their retirement, and carers and relatives of older people who help them with their financial affairs.

The books cost £4.99 each from bookshops or by sending a cheque to Age Concern, Freepost, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7ZZ.

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Football is a surer bet than Isas

Psychologists will put forward differing views as to why the nation may be happy to spend £100 million next week betting on various sporting events. But one thing is beyond speculation. The Chancellor, despite his support for Scotland, is unlikely to have made more than the most modest investment at Ladbroke on the team's World Cup chances. Building society accounts with assured payouts are more his thing.

Next April, when the Individual Savings Account makes its debut, Gordon Brown would like those who currently do not follow his pious example to develop the savings habit. However, many will be as sceptical about the Isa, as their own chances of winning the National Lottery tonight. For the myth that Mr Brown has built up around the Isa is crumbling fast. Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, began the work of demolition and now Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary, is finishing the job.



COMMENT
ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

Mr Brown believes that the Isa will ensure that the one half of the adult population who do not currently have any savings will start to invest their cash long term. Mrs Liddell would not concede that the withdrawal of the tax credit from equity-based Isas in 2004, would rob the accounts of their attraction for basic-rate taxpayers (see page 64). But why would anyone choose to invest in a tax-free savings scheme once the tax break was removed?

Mr Brown cannot blame either of his colleagues for this turn of events, as he was himself responsible for the abolition of the dividend tax credit, so depriving Isas of their relief. But as every psychologist

says, we always hurt the ones we love.

Sharing dilemma

The rules allowing pensions to be split at divorce have been greeted with many fine feminist statements. At last, wives who have devoted themselves to home and family, enabling their spouse to scramble up the corporate ladder, will be entitled to a share of his pension. But the praise that has greeted the proposals should not cause divorcing wives to hugely increase their expectations. Lawyers are warning that, in households where assets are not plentiful, wives may be compelled to choose between immediate need and future security.

between the family home and a share of the pension. The Government likes splitting, because it should ensure that fewer elderly ex-wives become dependent on benefits. But ministers should be aware that the measures will be a more effective means of welfare saving, if the costs of dividing the pension are kept to a minimum. Insurers and company pension schemes should not be permitted to grab their own slice of the cake for calculating the fund's value.

Ministers should also remember that some of the necessity for pension splitting arises from the rules that prevent people without paid employment, including housewives, from contributing to pension plans. The citizen's pension, another new Labour savings idea, was supposed to be the solution to this dilemma. But, given the reluctance of the Government to divulge any of its pension policy, we can presume that thousands of marriages will be made and broken, before this anomaly is corrected.

Swift exit could mean a pension windfall

People who have transferred out of employers' pension schemes over the past few months have been enjoying windfall payouts thanks to unusual market conditions — but the good times are about to stop. If you are changing jobs and are moving to another pension scheme the size of the transfer value you can expect is about to fall, after government action this week.

The minimum amount which your employer has to give you on leaving could fall by up to 10 per cent from Monday after changes were made to how these values are calculated.

There is some good news. People who have already been quoted a transfer value from their employer have a short time to benefit from the generosity of calculations made under the old regime. They have three months to take advantage of it from the date their quotation was issued. Quick action now may secure them a higher transfer value than they are likely to see for some time.

Hundreds of thousands of people change jobs every year and transfer the funds they have built up to their new employer's occupational scheme or to a personal pension.

This week, however, the Government bowed to pressure from the pension fund industry and made changes to the provisions that pension schemes must set aside to ensure they can pay their members in the future. They have also changed the way transfer values are calculated.

Critics say the Government has now watered down a key legal safeguard introduced to prevent a repeat of the Maxwell affair and protect members of

occupational pension schemes. The amount of assets which a pension scheme must hold in reserve has been reduced and individual transfer values will also be cut.

Actuaries, however, say that both had been artificially inflated by the recent behaviour of the markets. They say the changes made this week have corrected these anomalies and made it fairer for remaining members of a scheme.

After the Maxwell scandal, employers who provide a pension scheme are obliged to keep a certain level of assets in the scheme. This is known as the minimum funding requirement. Actuaries calculate this by looking at returns on shares and the expected stream of dividend income from companies in the FTSE All-Share index.

Under normal circumstances this income would grow gradually each year. However, budget changes which stopped companies reclaiming tax credits for dividends has meant corporations have started to reward shareholders with share buybacks rather than dividends. In theory, the abolition of tax credits should have strengthened the pension schemes because the loss of dividend income meant employers had to contribute more to keep the schemes solvent.

However, enough big companies have changed their strategy after the Budget from paying dividends towards making share buybacks to distort the index and make it look as though pension fund returns would suffer in the future.

As a result, the funding test has got much tougher and schemes that had looked reasonably well provided-for have started

to look in danger of becoming insolvent.

Mike Pomeroy of the Faculty and Institute of Actuaries said: "The funding test was artificially too tough by 9 per cent and this is a short-term measure to correct it. Individuals will also be affected because the statutory minimum that employers can pay as their pension transfer value will also fall."

"It is true to say that people making transfers recently have been enjoying a bit of a windfall because of the distortion." The solvency requirements were introduced by the Pensions Act, in the wake of the abuses uncovered in the Robert Maxwell scandal. Before this week's action some people were benefiting from increases of more than 30 per cent in their pensions transfer values, according to the Croydon pension adviser Johnstone Douglas.

Nevertheless, there is still time for people who have requested a transfer value to make the most of the inflated values before the reductions hit home over the coming weeks.

Under pensions rules, employers are required to guarantee transfer values for three months, which means that if you act quickly you will still benefit from estimates made under the old rules.

Nigel Chambers, of Johnstone Douglas, said: "If, for example, you received a transfer value calculation three weeks ago from your occupational scheme, it is required to honour that valuation for the three-month period. After that, the absolute minimum payment is likely to drop, depending on the generosity of your pension fund."

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Childish error costs Abbey saver

ALAN WELLS



Leah Chandler whose dreams of using windfall proceeds to buy a small car to drive to college in have been dashed

When 17-year-old Leah Chandler received her Abbey National windfall shares nearly ten years ago, she thought she would have enough money to buy a car to drive to college.

But because of confusion at the time of the former building society's conversion, Leah, who is currently studying health and social care, has to hand back the shares and all the dividends.

When Abbey National floated in 1989, every saver and borrower was allocated 100 free shares. As each share was then worth £1.30, those who sold theirs straight away would have made £133.

But only members aged over 18 qualified. Children with savings at Abbey National got nothing because of regulations in the Building Societies Act. These rules have now changed.

However, despite being only eight at the time, Leah received the full allocation of 100 shares. The mix-up occurred because Leah's name, Elizabeth Murphy, Leah's grand-

mother, was also a saver with Abbey National and received her own allocation of shares on top of those she thought had been sent to her granddaughter.

Nearly ten years later, Abbey National realised a mis-

take had been made and has asked for the money back. A spokeswoman said: "We have a 2.5 million shareholder base. Because of the size, the problem took a long time to come to light." The bank said the mistake had gone unnoticed

because although the account holder was the same person, the address is different. Leah lives just around the corner from her grandparents in London.

Abbey National only noticed the problem after Leah's grandfather, Mr Murphy, contacted the bank to ask about missing dividends.

As shares in Abbey National were worth about £11 this week, Leah would have had about £1,100. The bank has also asked for the dividends back — just over £44.

Leah, who wants to become a nursery teacher, said: "It was a real disappointment when they asked for the money back because I really wanted a little car to drive to college. Now I will have to take the train which could easily cost me £50 a week."

The bank said that in 1989 each customer had to complete a form confirming their eligibility to receive the shares. So far Abbey National have discovered 5,000 cases of over allocation.

SUSAN EMMETT

WOULD OTHER WINDFALLS HAVE FARED

Shares in the building societies that became banks have had mixed fortunes since they floated on the stock market.

Shares in Alliance & Leicester, which closed at 566.5p when the bank floated on April 21 last year, were at 800p yesterday, off 18p from Thursday's closing price.

Halifax, 805p yesterday, reached 827p this week having made their debut at 732.5p on June 2, 1997. The bank's shares reached a high of 977p at the beginning of March.

Shares in Northern Rock

fell sharply this week as brokers cut the bank's profit forecasts. The Newcastle bank's shares, floated at 452p on October 1, closed at 585p on Thursday, and slid further to 560p yesterday, having reached a high of 668.5p at the end of February.

Woolwich shares have delivered a mediocre performance. Having floated at 296.5p, the bank's shares closed at 335.5p on Thursday, then fell to 328p yesterday, below the 334p they reached at close of business on their stock market debut.

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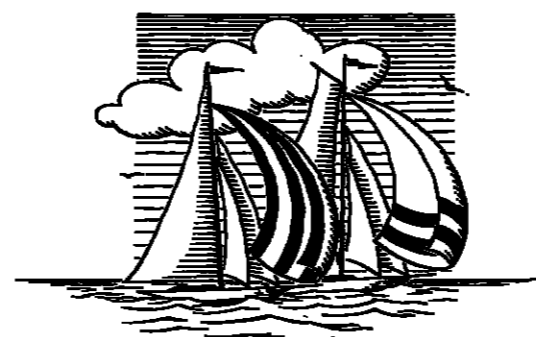
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Cards that store up trouble for the unwary

Anne Ashworth examines some of the pitfalls of store credit cards

Borrowers shopping for a mortgage are price sensitive, seeking out the cheapest rate deal. This same awareness does not extend to store cards whose popularity appears unaffected by their steep rates of interest. This week Marks & Spencer welcomed its five millionth card holder, Trish Stott, a school-dinner lady, mother, foster mother and grandmother. She received a present of £500 which should help to defray future interest charges on the card, if she opts not to repay her balance in full each month.

Meanwhile, Selfridges, poised to demerge from its parent the Sears Group later in the summer and eager to do anything to boost its flagging sales, has launched its own card. The store will be charging 27.6 per cent, 0.2 per cent less than the Sears card.

However, the details of the rate were omitted from the mail shot that is now landing on the doorsteps of prospective card holders. Every other detail is lovingly extolled, including the bonus points system that confers "significantly Selfridges" status on high spenders.

The consumer credit rules say interest rate information should appear in all advertisements. The company said the omission was an "oversight" that was being investigated.

Rates on other cards range from 18 per cent at John Lewis to 29 per cent at the Burton Group. The rate on the M&S card, the most widely used in the retail sector, is 26.3 per cent, although those who owe more than £1,000 pay 22.9 per cent. M&S itself refuses to take



Trish Stott, M&S's five millionth card holder. It is the most widely used card in Britain

credit cards says that card sales now account for more than 26 per cent of purchases.

In contrast, some recent entrants to the credit card market, such as the American Capital One Bank are offering introductory rates as low as 6.9 per cent. This rises to 17.9 per cent in January 1999. Robert Fleming Save & Prosper offers a base rate-linked card with a rate of 13 per cent, although there is no interest-free period. All the rates given are annual percentage rates (APRs) that give the true cost of the loan.

In many cases, higher rates apply for those holders who do not pay their accounts by direct

debit. According to Moneyfacts, the savings and loan rate information guide, the IKEA card has a 26.8 per cent direct debit APR. Those customers paying by other methods are charged 29 per cent.

The rise in the bank base rate is yet to be reflected in store card rates. Marks & Spencer explains that base rates are not the only influence on its rates. They are determined as much by what the competition is charging. The card division must also achieve its profitability target.

M&S enthusiasts who are rate sensitive might wish to look at another of the chain's

loan schemes, the Personal Reserve borrowing facility. Previously available only to holders of the M&S card, the scheme allows you to borrow up to £3,000 at 14.9 per cent for balances over £2,000 and at 15.9 per cent for balances of less than £2,000.

This is a lower rate than most bank overdrafts, personal loans and credit cards. Personal Reserve customers have a cheque book to write cheques to themselves that they pay into their bank accounts. Once the cheque has cleared, the money can be spent. Charges only apply when they make use of Personal Reserve cash.

Abbey National's decision to increase rates after the Bank of England's raising of base rates has prompted renewed speculation that the other big lenders will follow. The Abbey raised the rate for customers with loans under £59,999 by 0.25 per cent to 8.95 per cent. This adds £8 to the monthly repayment on a £50,000 loan. Higher loans will be charged at 8.9 per cent (£60,000 to £99,999) and 8.85 per cent (£100,000-plus).

Borrowers are being advised to fix their rates or see their repayments rise as the other banks fall into line with the Abbey.

Redemption penalties of extra interest that may be levied if borrowers want to pay off loans early have been under scrutiny this week. Typically lenders which have offered cash incentives up front or special rates seek to recoup the cost by keeping borrowers locked into the standard variable rate.

The Building Societies Association noted at its meeting this week that such penalties on variable rate loans "increased the complexity of an already complicated mortgage market".

But, said the BSA, getting rid of such penalties might simplify the mortgage market but also mean the end of cashback and discount mortgages, so reducing consumer choice. The BSA plans to issue a discussion document next month in order to canvass opinion from lenders and consumer groups.

Regardless of the outcome of such discussions, mortgage hunters can be forgiven for confusion when confronted with all the different varieties of mortgage and range of rates available.

Recent research from the Mortgage Guild, a marketing association of independent mortgage brokers, found that around 40 per cent of homeowners put off switching mortgage to another, perhaps cheaper lender, because of confusion about the different options available.

The Mortgage Guild is against changes in the market such as removal of redemption penalties that would influence products and pro-

Get yourself into a fix to beat the rate rise misery



Seeking best deals - many mortgage-buyers are doing the same

ing, and ultimately reduce the product choice for consumers. Instead, says Chris Scales, marketing and media director, "redemption penalties must be explained in full to the borrower and it is the bor-

rower's decision to determine whether or not the benefits of a particular mortgage product are worth the possible redemption penalties."

Among current offers from the Mortgage Guild is a new

flexible product that allows the borrower to vary payments and pay off more of the loan when funds allow. The rate is discounted by 1.75 per cent until October 1, 2000 to 6.9 per cent at present but capped at 7.99 per cent for the discount period, before reverting to the standard variable rate.

If the loan is redeemed before October 1, 2000, 5 per cent of the amount redeemed early is payable. But after that date the borrower, without penalty, can pay off up to 25 per cent of the loan within three years of completion.

"Fix if you can," says Alastair Conway of Clarke Conway, financial advisers. Fixed-rate packages look much more attractive while standard variable rates are edging higher, and while the much anticipated fall of UK rates to align with Europe is still some way off.

Among current best buys says Mr Conway is the Woolwich's five-year offer of 6.45 per cent with no lock-in, while the Nationwide has a three-year fixed rate of 6.59 per cent.

The Portman Building Society, which is opposed to any changes that would get rid of redemption penalties, currently offers two products that do not have early repayment fees. Its Successor mortgage has a rate of 6.49 per cent fixed until July 2000, while its No Penalty mortgage offers a 1.25 per cent discount until July 2000, with a current rate of 7.24 per cent.

Ian Darby from John Charcol, the mortgage broker, also favours fixed and capped mortgages. Current offers include Birmingham Midshires' rate of 6.69 per cent capped until July 2003.

"Our view is that the risk associated with fixing is very limited," says Mr Darby. But he adds, if borrowers think that mortgage rates are likely to fall significantly, a capped rate offers the benefits of a discount and of any reduction in base rates.

Mortgage Guild: 0800-1333 940; Portman Building Society 01202-292 444; John Charcol 0800-718 191; Clarke Conway 0181-241 1000.

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A QUESTION OF MONEY

Do take care with a free share exchange

Demutualisations of a number of building societies and insurance companies has left millions of people holding windfall shares. However they can be volatile, falling in value as quickly as they can rise.

If you want to shelter your nest-egg, but still have exposure to the potentially lucrative equity market, consider switching funds to a professionally-managed investment fund through a free share exchange scheme.

Q What exactly is meant by a share exchange?

A A facility offered by fund management groups where investors can transfer shares in certain stock market-listed companies into one of the funds managed by the investment company free of charge. This is usually a unit trust.

Q But why would I want to do such a thing?

A People holding shares in particular companies are exposing their investments to a relatively high degree of risk as the price of individual shares can fall substantially. For example, in the last 12 months the value of Halifax shares has rollercoasted between a high of 1,000p and a low of 507p, which means if you added to your free share allocation at the top of the market and sold at the bottom, the value of your shares would have almost halved. By transferring to a professionally-managed unit trust or investment trust, the funds will be spread across a range of equities so if one falls it should not have a significant effect on the value of the fund.

Q So if I transfer my shares into an investment fund they will be sold and new shares bought in other companies which the fund manager thinks are a better bet?

A This is usually what happens, although initially the shares might just be transferred into the investment company's fund if they are shares which the manager would wish to buy anyway.

Q Which company's shares will investment managers accept for transfer?

A Cost-free share exchanges are a relatively

new idea brought about in reaction to the increasing number of people picking up free windfall shares in demutualising building societies, or state sell-offs. Most companies which have privatised or shed their mutual colours in favour of plc status in the last 15 years would qualify, although some fund managers include companies in the FTSE 100 index.

Q So why do investment companies do this?

A It is a great way to get people to buy into their own investment funds with the incentive that the normal up-front charges are waived.

Q What would these charges normally be?

A When investment companies buy shares for your fund the cost of the transaction is usually passed on to the investor through stockbroking charges. These are around 1 per cent of the value of the transaction, so a £2,000 investment would carry buying costs of £20. Although fund managers buy in bulk and can get better deals.

Q Are the cost savings of share exchange schemes worth it?

A Anything which saves you having to cover buying and selling costs and stamp duty has to be worth considering, although this should never be the priority when it comes to investing. The most important thing is that you are happy with the fund your shares are being transferred into. According to Roddy Kohn of Bristol-based investment specialist Kohn Cougar, the free shares exchange offer should be seen as an additional benefit rather than the main motivation.

He said: "If you are offered a free share exchange service it is very much a case of caveat emptor (buyer beware), and make sure you know exactly

what you are transferring your shares in to before agreeing to anything."

Q How can I find out if the fund willing to accept my shares free of charge is a worthwhile investment?

A Ask the investment company for details of the fund's track record going back as long as possible. If you have any doubts about what you are doing you should consult an independent financial adviser who is duty bound to give you best advice, although this might incur fees which would have to be offset against the potential savings.

Q Will I have to pay charges to the fund to which I transfer my shares?

A Probably. Although many companies are asking or reducing initial charges, most funds still levy an annual management charge, typically 1 per cent of the value of the fund. Holding on to the shares yourself would avoid these charges and any dividends would be paid directly to you rather than into the unit trust.

Q Which investment companies are offering the best share exchange services combined with funds which have a good performance record?

A There are about 50 fund management groups which offer share exchange schemes and according to Jason Holland, a director of London independent financial adviser Best Investment, Perpetual, Britain's biggest provider of Peps, is the best.

He said: "It's hard to go wrong with Perpetual which not only offers a commission-free share exchange but also has a range of unit trust Peps with strong performance records, including its UK Growth fund and UK Smaller Companies fund."

"Gartmore and Credit Suisse also have attractive funds which accept share exchanges."

Mr Holland says M&G's free exchange offer might seem attractive but, he adds: "M&G's record has been poor in recent times and even though there have been signs of improvement in the last 12 months it is unlikely it will suddenly become one of the best investment companies."

JOHN GIVENS

THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 13 1998

M

Shares in SmithKline Beecham have fallen 20 per cent since January when the company was valued at £110 billion merger with Glaxo (see below). The company is now valued at £45 billion.

Neither Sir Richard Branson of Virgin or Sir John Gorton of Glaxo are likely to rule out a merger. The two companies have worked together for years and development of a joint venture is being explored. The merger would create a £150 billion company, dwarfing the £100 billion of the current Home Products and Glaxo. The merger would also create a £150 billion company, dwarfing the £100 billion of the current Home Products and Glaxo.

In this fast-moving industry, the winners will be those who can produce the products and marketing strategies that are most successful. The market which is growing at the rate of 10 per cent in Europe represents 25 per cent of the world's population. Further bids and acquisitions are inevitable as pressure to increase market share drives once again the science and capital resources. So what has happened? Merger collapse?

A matter of connections: It is...

The rig

Glaxo is uniquely a pharmaceutical drug business and a fourth largest US-based pharmaceutical company. Merck and Bristol-Myers Squibb American investors have been placed in a double-digit growth next year. The company is well placed to regenerate potential. The drugs including Retenta five and Invivance for Hepatitis B. The company's sales were £5 billion and projected to reach £7 billion in 2000. The company has three new big drugs in 2000.

Printed at 01763 Glaxo is on...

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You can change the a

Mergers not ruled out at SB

Shares in SmithKline Beecham have fallen 20 per cent since late January when the company walked away from talks over a proposed £10 billion merger with the larger Glaxo (see below). The companies are tenth and second in the world drugs league.

Neither Sir Richard Sykes, chairman of Glaxo, nor Jan Leschly, chief executive of SmithKline Beecham, now rule out a merger — although not necessarily with the other. Together they would have wielded a research and development budget of \$3.4 billion, dwarfing the spending power of the soon-to-be-merged Monsanto/American Home Products (the latter was also jilted by SB), along with that of Switzerland's Novartis and Roche, and America's Merck, Pfizer, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Eli Lilly.

In this fast evolving and fragmented industry, the winners will have the sales and marketing muscle to drive the products and to compete in the US market which is growing at three times the rate of that in Europe and represents 35 per cent of world drug sales. Further bids and deals would seem inevitable as pressure to increase R&D and marketing expenditure drives once deadly rivals to pool their science and capital resources.

So what has changed since the merger collapsed? SmithKline Beecham has raised 1998 research spending by 17 per cent to £1 billion or 20 per cent of expected £5 billion sales from pharmaceuticals to keep pumping new drugs through its product pipeline. But more spending for future growth spells less profit now.

Institutional investors are down on the pharmaceuticals sector in general and SmithKline Beecham in particular. The once intoxicating idea of megamergers in the industry now has them fretting that perhaps bigger is not necessarily better in a research organisation.

Negative sentiment has been exacerbated by news of possible generic competition for the anti-depressant Seroquel/Paxil, SmithKline Beecham's star drug. But such concerns are overdone and discounted in SmithKline Beecham's current price.

Its American institutional investors have cut their holdings from 40 per cent to 30 per cent, while in the UK, Mercury Asset Management, has increased a near 4 per cent stake to just under 5 per cent — thus increasing pressure on the company to do or die as an independent enterprise.

Mr Leschly's team must drive double-digit growth in sales and earnings so as to restore the price premium that evaporated when it ended talks with Glaxo. Many institutions have shares in both companies, so it would have



SHARE OF THE MONTH
STELLA SHAMOON

been a double act. But press reports of Mr Leschly's impending departure are dismissed as "absolute nonsense". He insists he will not be browbeaten into resuming talks with Glaxo on unacceptable terms.

He said: "I do not rule out a merger. But I am not making any calls. Glaxo rang me. If we had not had the discussions, we'd have been today in the same strong position. We trade in 170 countries. Our pharmaceuticals business is great, and our consumer products business is strong."

Brands such as Aquafresh and Macleans, Panadol, Contac, Nicorette and Tums add a certain stability to its profit mix but above-average growth potential is in pharmaceuticals, which represented 59 per cent of sales and 72 per cent of trading income last year. Its key therapeutic areas are anti-depressants, antibiotics and vaccines — complementary with those of Glaxo.

The three stars in its current drug portfolio are Seroquel-Paxil with \$1.5 billion in sales a year and, said Mr Leschly, it is poised to double its sales over the next four years; the antibiotic Augmentin, another \$1.7 billion seller that should grow from 5 to 10 per cent a year before it comes off patent in 2003; and vaccines that could double their \$1.15 billion per year contribution to overall sales by 2002.

In addition, there are four new potential blockbusters in the pipeline: Avandia for diabetes; idoxifene for prevention of osteoporosis (and may be also breast cancer); a new quinolone antibiotic; and Arlio for asthma. If all goes well, Avandia and idoxifene should be marketed by late 1999 or early 2000. Its patent on its best seller Seroquel-Paxil will not expire until 2005.

Great new products are a drug company's lifeline. Without them, the risks are high especially when patents expire, generics come in and prices fall. The only way to maintain growth in

sales and earnings is to keep pushing new drug products out. The best drug groups such as SB, consistently score sales gains and earnings growth of 15 per cent or more, while still investing heavily in new drugs with potential billion-dollar annual sales, such as Viagra, Pfizer's impotence remedy.

Scientific research, courtesy of technology, is no longer random or haphazard (although Pfizer discovered the side effects of Viagra by accident). It is essentially an exercise in capital allocation.

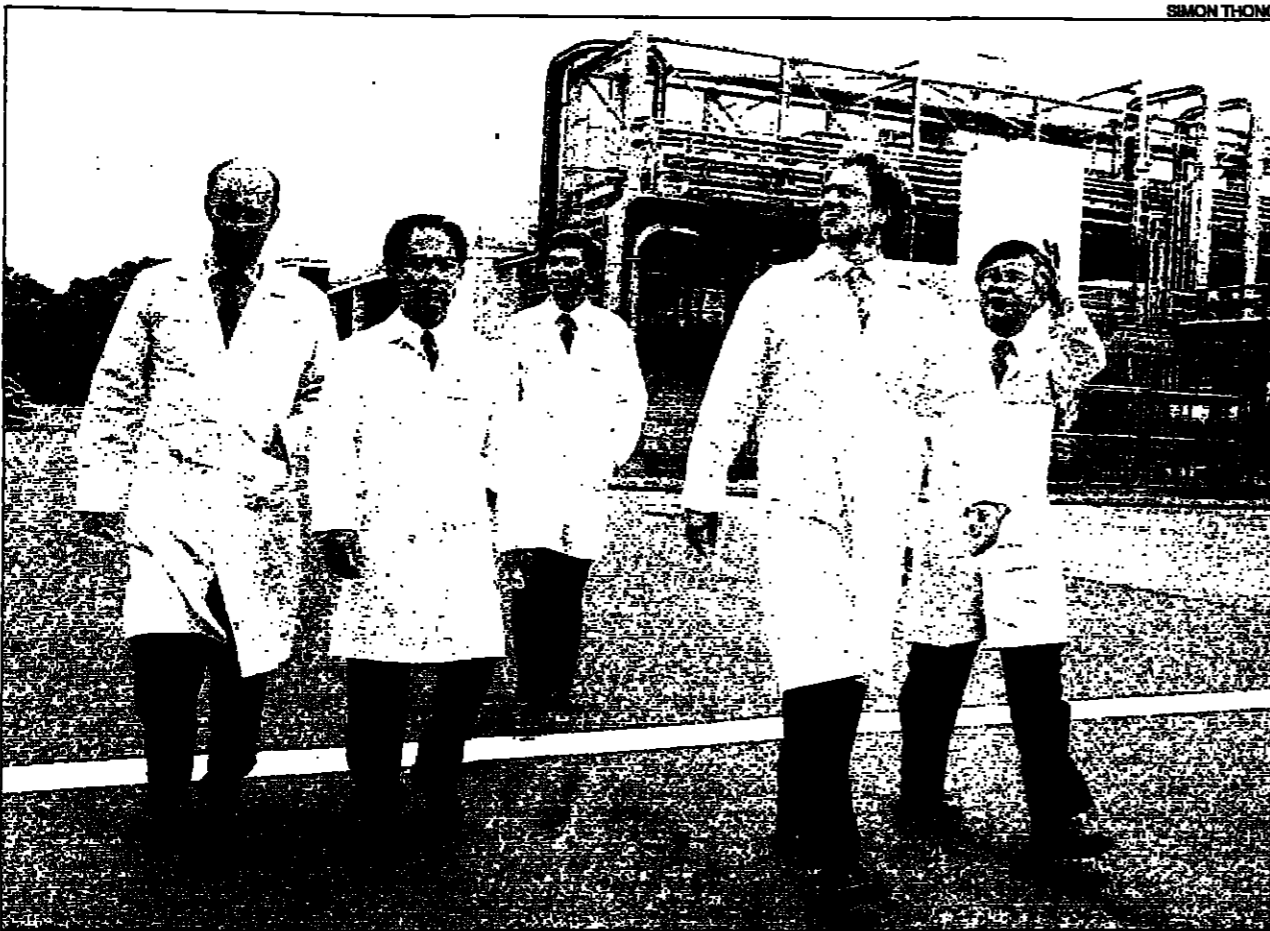
That is how the top drug companies continue to deliver earnings growth significantly higher than that offered by the broader market. No wonder the best among them command an average 35 times earnings multiples. Look at the demographics: consider the cost-effectiveness of drugs compared with surgery or hospitalisation.

All the more reason cheerfully to invest now in SmithKline Beecham which at 700p is on a price/earnings ratio of 33 and yields 1.6 per cent. It is in the world league of drug companies and is well positioned to create real wealth over several years.

Stella Shamoon is a private investor. Readers who buy shares mentioned in her columns do so at their own risk and are warned that prices can go down as well as up.



Jan Leschly brushed off talk of his impending departure



A matter of connections: It doesn't hurt when the Prime Minister drops in to visit — in this case Glaxo's Singapore plant

The right profits prescription

Glaxo, is uniquely a pure prescription drug business and boasts the fourth largest US sales force behind Pfizer, Merck and Bristol-Myers Squibb. American investors love it. The company is well placed to resume double-digit growth next year from its broad-based portfolio of existing and next-generation potential blockbuster drugs, including Relenza for influenza and lamivudine for Hepatitis B: 1997 sales were £8 billion and pre-tax profits just under £2.7 billion. The target is to market three new big drugs each year from 2000.

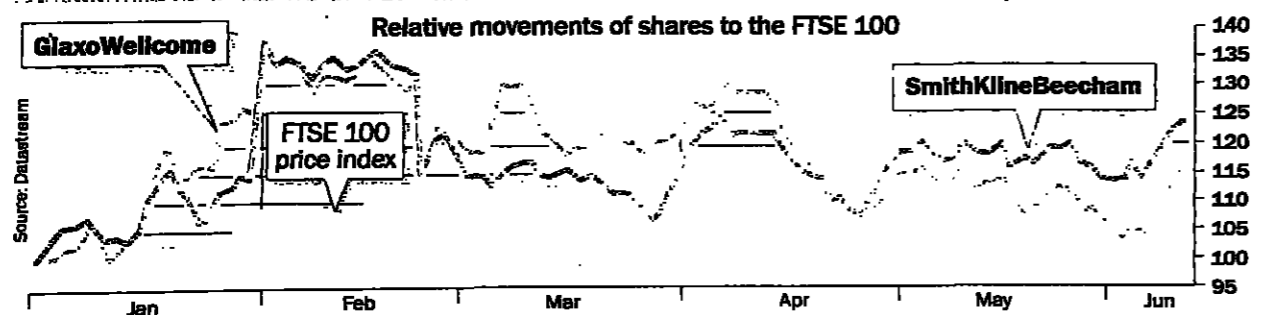
Priced at £17.63 Glaxo is on a p/e of

38ratio and yields 2.2 per cent — not cheap but excellent value given its quality consistent strategy and stability of management.

Among Glaxo's existing portfolio of gross drug products are Imigran, which generates \$1 billion in sales and is growing at 31 per cent pa. Serevent for asthma, which in 1997 made \$660 million of sales and is growing at 28 per cent a year; Slixotide also for asthma, with a 1997 sale of just over \$500 million and growing at 88 per cent pa; and Lamictal for epilepsy, with 1997 sales of \$200 million and annual growth of 37 per cent. Zantac, Glaxo's wonder drug for the

treatment of ulcers, represented 43 per cent of the company's sales at its peak, but came off patent last year. Zantac still contributes a significant 10 per cent of overall sales.

Meanwhile, the International Aids Conference in Geneva at the end of this month will help to focus interest on abacavir, Glaxo's new drug, which could be on the market by the end of this year. Another new Glaxo drug for the treatment of Aids is Amprenavir, which may follow the success of Glaxo's Epiriv and Retrovir, market leaders in the treatment of Aids.



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Gavin Lumsden explains why the split-capital trust is making a comeback

Digit hopes to reach the parts others can't



Split-capital trusts, some of the most complex financial products ever constructed for the public, are set to make a comeback as income generation and capital growth — the twin goals of the investment world — become harder to achieve. Leading the charge is Dresdner RCM Global Investors, the international fund manager, which is launching Digit (Dresdner RCM Income Growth Investment Trust) a new eight-year split-capital investment trust which it says can satisfy all investors. Income seekers — who rely on the dividends paid by companies to their shareholders — are being squeezed by a combination of a soaring stock market and government tax reforms. Surprising as it may seem, a booming stock market is bad news because as share prices rise the proportion that shares yield in dividends falls. For example, before the last election the yield on the FTSE 100 was 3.5 per cent. The index has risen 34 per cent since then pushing the yield down to about 2.8 per cent. This is set to fall to 2.3 per cent next April when the Government abolishes advanced corporation tax (ACT). Because this will prevent investors reclaiming the 20 per cent tax credit on dividends, most will see their income from equities fall by a fifth unless they take pre-emptive action.



When the two opposing forces of capital growth and income meet, inevitably something has to give way

Investors wanting capital growth face a less frustrating time, indeed the abolition of ACT arguably puts them on the gravy train as companies divert their resources away from paying healthy dividends into launching share buybacks as a way of returning value to shareholders. Nevertheless, investors face the problem of a bull market and the two questions: how long can the rise go on and, is my capital safe? Split-capital investment trusts are an ingenious way of satisfying both sets of investors' demands. In their simplest, and most effective, form they issue two classes of shares: one gets most of the capital growth from the portfolio of shares the trust holds, and the other gets most of the income from dividends from the same investments. In effect, both groups get more than their fair share of capital or income than if they held conventional shares. Another distinguishing feature of split trusts is that they set a date, five to ten years ahead, when they are wound up and returns are divided among the investors. The two classes of shares most commonly issued by splits are zero-dividend preference shares and ordinary income shares. As their name suggests, "zeros" get none of the dividend payments. However, in return, they get a pre-determined level of capital growth. They are first in line to receive this when the trust winds up, so the risk of the growth target being missed is minimised. They are mainly designed for cautious investors. Ordinary income shares, by contrast, receive a steady stream of

dividends. They are also entitled to any capital growth left over once the zeros have been paid off at maturity. If the split has been structured properly, they should at least get their money back, providing the stockmarket has achieved a modest amount of growth. Digit, the new trust, is primarily intended as a roll-over vehicle for investors in the Kleinwort High Income Trust which matures this month. However, its two share classes are also available to new investors who can shelter them in a PEP. Analysts and financial advisers alike are recommending the shares to private investors. Digit's zero dividend preference shares are exciting the most attention as they promise to pay investors annual capital growth of 7.6 per cent. Investors will get this in June 2006. By then, however, the zeros they bought at 100p should be worth 179.68p, or £1,000 will be £1,796. Investors can be confident this will happen as Digit's structure means the return is already covered by 1.2 times. The predictability of the return also

makes them ideal for people saving for school fees or anybody who needs a fixed sum in eight years. No other capital shares have an eight-year maturity. The ordinary income shares are higher-risk and, as a result, less attractive. They will initially provide just over 6 per cent income before tax, paid quarterly. This is lower than the yields offered by other split trusts such as Second Scottish National or Fleming Income and Capital. However, they also offer some capital growth. Digit will have what is known as a geared exposure to the UK stockmarket. This means if the FTSE 100 rises, investors get the capital growth from the rise in share prices plus a bit more. However, if it falls they lose more than anybody. If investors simply want to get their money back in eight years they have to hope that Digit's assets grow by 4.5 per cent a year. Dresdner says the stockmarket has kept this hurdle in 77 per cent of all eight-year periods since 1964. Nevertheless, there is a risk. However, the

trust's managers have coped well with this in the past. Ordinary shareholders who put £6,000 in Kleinwort High Income seven years ago are now sitting on £16,500. Richard Green, of stockbrokers William de Broe, said: "If you don't believe the market will grow in the next eight years don't buy this trust. However, a little bit of a gamble could pay off. The underlying portfolio yield is quite low at 3.2 per cent which should give the fund manager lots of flexibility to buy income and growth shares." Packages of split capital shares are trading at a premium at the moment, a rare feat in the unloved investment trust world. This is a sign that the shares are delivering what investors want. Analysts predict many trusts will start doing the splits in future in order to emulate this success. Digit's offer closes on June 26. For more information telephone: 0800-317 573. Score: ★★★★★ Products graded from ★ (poor), to ★★★★★ (outstanding).

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Julian Costley, chief executive of ESI, said: "The private investor will for the first time be able to deal in international securities via ETRADE's global network when fully operational." ETRADE's network will cover 25 different bourses including all American markets, France, Germany, Canada, Australia, Japan, Israel and 13 South-East Asian countries. ESI will be the first UK financial website to offer a seamless Internet service. Existing online trading, which is available via many of the leading sites, amounts to little more than sending an encrypted e-mail to a broker. However, the new company, ETRADE Share Information, will compete directly with Charles Schwab, Britain's largest execution-only broker, which started online trading in United Kingdom-listed shares in April. Charles Schwab's customers will be able to deal on the main United States stock markets later this year. The development follows the lead of the United States, where electronic trading has been in place since 1996. More than 50 per cent of trades processed by Charles Schwab's retail brokerage in the United States are now placed electronically by customers. ETRADE has 400,000 US customers. About 3,000 UK investors currently trade online.

ESITRADE UK expects a potential market of 31,000 online accounts by the end of the year and aims to gain up to 148,000 by the year 2000, the equivalent of more than 13 per cent market share. ESI offers its 170,000 customers real-time share prices, portfolio management services, news and links to execution-only brokers such as Charles Schwab and Stocktrade. For further information visit www.schwab-worldwide.com and www.esi.co.uk. SUSAN EMMETT

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Foreign & Colonial

THE TIMES SATURDAY

Clare Stewart

Take on the to Eu

With the World Cup under way, many agents are making a demand for their services. The football fans' performance across the globe is a route to victory.

The AA for a decade is spending a decade on recovery services for its members that its familiar services are on hand. The AA's hand games will be played in Europe, whether it's the Cup or for a political cause.

Preparing a confusing business comes to decision-making. A common assumption is that you need a great idea. You want to make a great idea. European Union countries green card since the UK insurance which provides a minimum in member countries.

Together with the UK these include Ireland, France, Germany, Holland, Luxembourg, Germany, Denmark, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Portugal, Greece and Italy.

In addition to the 15 members, there are 10 countries in Europe that do not require a green card but where drivers must ensure they carry the minimum of insurance. These include Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, San Marino, Slovakia and Switzerland.

A green card is an insurance document that allows you to drive your car in other European countries. It is a requirement for all drivers of motor vehicles in Europe. It is a requirement for all drivers of motor vehicles in Europe. It is a requirement for all drivers of motor vehicles in Europe.

Elderly medical

With the cost of private medical treatment forecast to rise faster than the rate of inflation each year, many older people are seeing large increases in their private medical insurance premiums.

Some have not been renewing policies when they fall due since the Government's second tax relief on medical insurance for the elderly in the Budget last July. As a result of that change, premiums rose by about 30 per cent. At the same time, insurance premium tax (IPT) at 4 per cent was imposed on all long-term medical policies. The combination of over one year's increase in premiums plus the IPT meant that many elderly people who had previously been able to afford private medical insurance found themselves unable to do so.

Medical insurers continued to move by saying that their offer would be to force elderly people to cancel their policies.

Be Invest Man 19

Clare Stewart provides an insurance checklist for motorists planning to travel to the Continent this summer

Take cover on the road to Europe

With the World Cup under way, travel agents, car breakdown groups and insurers are bracing themselves for a surge of demand for their services, as football fans make the pilgrimage across the Channel en route to vital fixtures.

The AA, for example, is sending a detachment of its recovery services to France, so that its familiar yellow vans are on hand near to the centres where the England and Scotland games will be played.

Preparing to drive in Europe, whether for the World Cup or for a holiday can be a confusing business when it comes to deciding what insurance cover is required.

A common assumption is that you need a green card if you want to take your car to a European Union country. In fact you have not needed a green card since 1972 for these countries, provided you have UK insurance which provides a minimum level of cover in member countries.

Together with the UK these include Ireland, France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Germany, Denmark, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Italy.

In addition to the 15 EU members, there are a further ten countries in Europe which do not require a green card, but where drivers should ensure they carry their certificate of insurance.

These include Andorra, the Czech Republic, Gibraltar, Hungary, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, San Marino, Slovakia and Switzerland.

A green card is an interna-

tionally recognised document that shows you have a minimum level of car insurance, so it is only equivalent to third party cover. Green cards are still required for company cars and remain in circulation because they provide a widely recognised proof of cover.

Although not legally required for the EU, green cards can still be provided by insurers, and should be free.

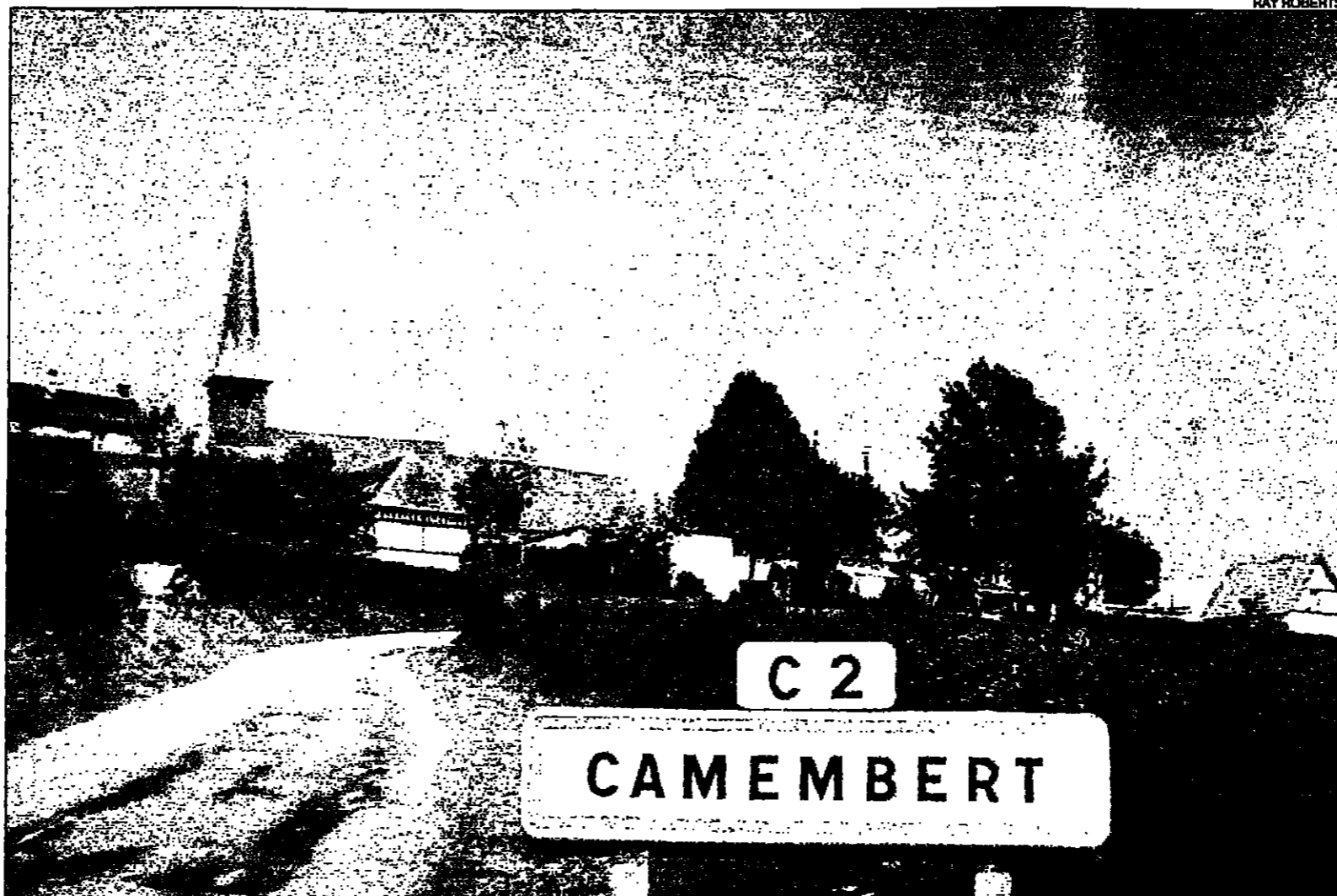
"You do not need a green card but we recommend you take one on holiday particularly if you are going to one of the remote parts of Europe, away from large towns and cities," said a spokesman for Royal & SunAlliance.

Checking that you have adequate insurance cover and have notified your insurance company of your plans are essentials that can be overlooked. "A lot of drivers believe they have automatic cover in EU countries," said Nigel Richardson, motor insurance development director at Woolwich Insurance Service.

For example, he adds, the basic cover provided by a green card on certain UK insurance policies would not cover the cost of damage to the driver's car in the event of an accident or other incident.

"Drivers should check with their insurers or they could be left with a bill for damage to their own car running into several thousand pounds."

Sorting out precisely what you do need is not helped by the sometimes confusing advice you may be given, which may result in drivers paying for insurance they do not always need. Equally a cheap



Before you launch into the gastronomic joys of La Belle France, make sure you have cover for all eventualities

quote for cover may prove a false economy if you need to add on extras to provide adequate insurance when you travel abroad.

Each insurer's policies come with different provisions built in. The Woolwich, for example, offers 60 days' free travel in Europe for most policyholders, without requiring notification from the policyholder.

Similarly, the AA offers an automatic 45-day extension of vehicle cover for policyholders.

To extend your fully comprehensive UK cover for European travel, Direct Line, however, makes a charge for

travel over three days, with the cost dependent on the duration of the travel.

Similarly, Royal & SunAlliance also charges for what it calls foreign extension cover, with the cost dependent on the car, where you plan to travel and for how long.

Having sorted out all the insurance needs, do not forget to make sure that you have arranged separate breakdown cover and personal cover for possessions.

A common error, say insurers, is that people assume that a green card will also come to your rescue when your car battery dies half way down the Autoroute du Soleil.

HOLIDAY CHECKLIST

If you are touring in Europe and plan to visit several countries it is important to check what documents each country requires as failure to show the right ones could mean a fine or worse.

In Spain, for example, drivers must carry a bail bond, so that if you are pulled up for a driving offence, or some other problem, you will not run the risk of being locked up at the local police station while the matter is dealt with.

Special permits are needed to drive on motorways in Austria and Switzerland, which have to be bought in advance, rather than at a toll en route.

For a number of countries, some in Europe, although not EU members, a green card is necessary unless you can show your insurance is valid for that country as you cross the border.

These countries include Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Macedonia, Iran, Israel, Malta, Morocco, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Tunisia and Turkey.

Elderly pay price of rising medical insurance premiums

With the cost of private medical treatment forecast to rise faster than the rate of inflation each year, many older people are seeing large increases in their private medical insurance premiums.

Some have not been renewing policies when they fall due since the Government removed tax relief on medical insurance for the over-60s in the Budget last July. As a result of that change, premiums rose by about 30 per cent.

At the same time, insurance premium tax (IPT) at 4 per cent was imposed on all long-term medical policies (ie contracts of over one year). These policies had previously been IPT exempt.

Medical insurers criticised both moves by saying that their effect would be to force elderly people to cancel premi-

Marianne Curphey on tax changes that could put pressure on the NHS

Our reader's problem is that he is 85 and his wife is 89. Both have needed to claim on their medical insurance policies in the past. On the most recent occasion he could not claim back money he paid out for his wife's eye condition because the joint policy had an excess of £250 and the bill came to less than that.

He said: "I took out private medical insurance through my company at the age of 39 for myself and my wife. I can barely afford the premiums but I am concerned that if anything happens to me my wife will be alone without any medical policy."

"For this reason I wanted to keep our joint policy on for as long as possible. What can I do?"

Royal & SunAlliance responded: "This demonstrates the very real problem of funding private healthcare for the elderly."

Graham Treharne, manager of health business corporate partnership for Royal & SunAlliance, said: "As the NHS is finding the costs of care are rising faster than inflation and this has to be reflected in the premiums charged. Regrettably as people age the cost of caring for

them also rises by comparison."

He said the increase had been due to the removal of tax relief in last July's Budget, the increase in IPT, and increases in medical inflation costs.

"The most significant single factor was the increase in IPT and the tax relief removal and the combination of those has led to an increase of almost 34 per cent in premiums for people in the over-60s age group."

Weekend Money asked Penny O'Nions, a GP and independent financial adviser who specialises in medical policies, what other options were available. She said: "He does not have the option to switch insurers because no one will accept him. He is well over the maximum joining age of around 70 to 75 years."

"At 85 he is also over his life expectancy, which means that since he is in good health he might live for another ten years, during which his medical insurance premiums would be huge."

"If he can afford to pay the premiums, it would be useful for him to continue with his insurance because if he has a need for a knee or hip replacement, for example, the waiting list could be very long. He could write to the company and ask for a discount based on his loyalty to the company. Some companies are persuaded to make special deals for long-serving customers."

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 Sources 1-3: Micropal offer to bid, gross income reinvested, 01/06/93 to 01/06/98: £6,000 became £14,216, an increase of 68.21%. Based on: £2,000 in the UK Equity Fund became £6,807, (164.14% in return), £2,000 in the UK Enterprise Fund became £4,897, (144.35% in return), £2,000 in the UK Smaller Companies Fund became £2,564 (28% in return).
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*Source: Micropal, offer to bid, income taken, for period 1/7/1986 to 1/5/98 (equivalent 5 year figure +86%, 1/5/93 to 1/5/98). **Source: Micropal, all figures offer to bid, gross income reinvested, for periods ending 1/5/98. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The price of units and the income from them is not guaranteed and can fall as well as rise. The Equity Income Trust has been available as a PEP since May 1993. Full written terms and conditions are available on request. For your security, all calls are recorded. Royal & Sun Alliance Unit Trust Management Limited, registered in England, no 2170242, is a member of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group. Registered Office: 1 Bartholomew Lane, London, EC2N 2AB. Members of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, solely for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business, and by HMRS.

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

A users' guide to surviving the euro

The British Bankers' Association has produced a leaflet which answers many questions relating to the new euro currency. You and the Euro reveals the designs for the different valued banknotes, and explains when you will be able to use euro notes and coins in the United Kingdom. Questions answered in the leaflet include how much will a euro be worth when I will be able to spend euro notes and coins in participating countries and will I need a new bank account? The leaflet is available free from banks, website www.bba.org.uk, or by calling 0171-216 8801.

By 2031, it is estimated that there will be 3.4 million people over the age of 80 in the UK. With the increasing demand for healthcare and pensions, there is a growing need for individuals to plan for their own retirement and welfare. Looking Forward to Retirement examines the issues that individuals who are approaching retirement should be considering. These include financial security, further work opportunities, housing, and planning for the inevitable. Available from the Stationery Office, 0171-873 9090, priced at £12.99 plus p&p.

A free copy of the Income Drawdown Advisory Bureau's Guide to Income Drawdown, Phased Retirement and Annuities can be obtained by calling 0171-401 2040. Manchester City offers a season ticket loan scheme, not Manchester United, as was incorrectly stated in Weekend Money last Saturday.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest Paid. Includes Instant Access Accounts from Standard Life Bank, Safeway, First National, and Northern Rock.

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest Paid. Includes Notice Accounts & Bonds from Leeds & Holbeck, Standard Life Bank, Legal & General, and Woolwich.

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest Paid. Includes First TESSAs (Tax Free) from Norwich & Peterborough, Yorkshire Bank, Darlington, and Sun Bank.

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

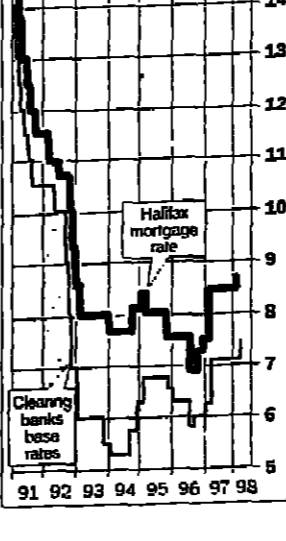
Table with columns: Card type, Interest per month, APR, Fee per annum. Includes Capital One Bank, RBS Advanta, and Nationwide.

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

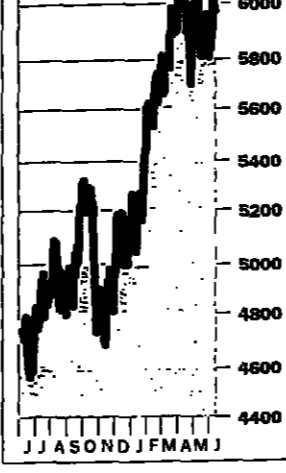
Table with columns: Personal Loans, APR, Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance, no insurance. Includes Northern Rock, Yorkshire Bank, and Direct Line.

Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01633 478747)

BASE RATES V MORTGAGES



FT-SE 100 PRICE INDEX



NATIONAL SAVINGS

Table with columns: Gross rate, At tax rates 20%, 40%, Minimum investment, Notice, Contact. Lists various National Savings products like Ordinary A/c, Investment A/c, Income Bonds, etc.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance.

Table with columns: Single Life (Level Ann), Single Life (Female), Joint Life, 2/3 Widows, Equitable Life, Norwich Union, Legal & General, Equitable Life, Scottish Widows, Sun Life, Prudential.

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Table with columns: Annual Income Rates as at June 11, 1998, Investment (£), Company, Standard Rate (%). Lists various guaranteed income bond products from companies like GE Fin Assur, ITT London & Ed, etc.

PIBS

Table with columns: Fixed Rate, Gross coupon, Buying price, % Gross yield, Issue price, Minimum purchase amount. Lists various fixed rate PIB products from Birmingham Midshires, Bradford & Bingley, etc.

PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS

Table with columns: Cheit & Gloucester, Halifax, Halifax, Halifax, Bristol & West, Northern Rock. Lists various perpetual subordinated bond products.

LARGER LENDERS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists various lenders like Bank of Scotland, Halifax, etc.

LARGER LOANS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists various lenders for larger loans like Bank of Scotland, Halifax, etc.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists various lenders for first-time buyers like Bristol & West, Dudley, etc.

LARGER LENDERS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists various lenders like Bank of Scotland, Halifax, etc.

LARGER LOANS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists various lenders for larger loans like Bank of Scotland, Halifax, etc.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Large table listing various unit-linked insurance investments from companies like Aegon Life Assurance, ABN Life, Allianz, etc. Columns include Fund Name, Bid, Offer, Why Buy, etc.

Vertical advertisement on the right side of the page. Includes 'Not W...', 'Gavin Lumsden', 'TRUST WATCH', 'There's a better waiting for you', 'DIRECT LINE', 'SAVINGS LINE', 'MORTGAGE', 'PERSONAL LOAN', 'WINDSOR LIFE', 'STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO', 'NORWICH UNION', 'LEGAL & GENERAL', 'EQUITABLE LIFE', 'SCOTTISH WIDOWS', 'SUN LIFE', 'PRUDENTIAL', 'NATIONAL SAVINGS', 'PENSION ANNUITIES', 'GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS', 'PIBS', 'LARGER LENDERS', 'LARGER LOANS', 'FIRST-TIME BUYERS'.

Gavin Lumsden explains why broker bonds and funds have got a bad name

Not what they seem to be



The reputation of independent financial advisers (IFAs) has suffered grave damage over the years as a succession of scandals has brought into question not only the quality but the very independence of their advice on financial products.

Nowhere, however, has their role been more open to criticism than when they try to manage investors' money, particularly in so-called broker bonds and funds.

Broker bonds and funds get their name because it is the IFA who makes the investment decisions on behalf of their clients. All too often this is disastrous for most investors, who can actually end up losing money, even over long periods such as five years.

Although they are often branded under the IFAs' name, the administration and management of the money is left to big insurance companies. Essentially, IFAs direct the insurers which shares and funds their clients' money should buy.

There is actually little difference between bonds and funds. Both are pools of investors' money but differ in their tax treatment. This means bonds are more suitable for higher-rate taxpayers.

Broker bonds and funds enable IFAs to play at being big-shot fund managers who should have jobs in the City. At the same time they allow insurers, such as Old Mutual and Skandia, to increase the amount of money they control without the hard graft to get it.

Unfortunately, this cosy arrangement is bad news for many of the clients who have pumped in £2 billion into their IFA-led investments. Until recently, IFAs have not had to take professional exams to back up their claims of investment expertise. The result is most investors' money has been handled by amateurs.

To make matters worse, in the past many insurers insisted the brokers they were sponsoring chose funds from their own range. This destroyed the justification, used by many IFAs, that they were providing a service not offered by the insurers.

Many bonds and funds have since been "opened" which means brokers can put their clients' money into any investment funds. Unfortunately, this is doing nothing to improve their performance. This is because broker funds are also expensive, a result of the double charging which comes about because both the IFA and the insurer are taking their cut of investors' money.



Like the carnival figures in Venice, IFAs can pretend to be someone they are not — big-shot fund managers

Annual management fees can range between 2 and 3 per cent, twice the level charged by most unit trusts. On top of this there is a standard 5-6 per cent initial charge taken each time the client invests more money. This means, no matter how good IFAs may actually be in selecting winning funds and shares, they are always running from behind. Analysis by the City watchdog Personal Investment Authority (PIA) last year showed that while the average life fund may have grown by 7.3 per cent per annum in the 1990s, the same fund run by a broker achieved only 6.1 per cent. The same

explain the conflict of interest to new investors in their introductory "reason why" letters. In addition, each year they will have to set out what the objectives of their fund is and how it has performed. The PIA is also considering changing the key features documents which IFAs use to sell their funds. In future they will have to be much more specific at the effect of the double charging.

So notorious have broker funds become that even the professional body set up to represent them has dropped the name. The National Association of Broker Fund Invest-

had just left their money in the building society. In the past year only one of the most go-go broker life funds has actually beaten the FTSE-All Share index. The Whitechurch Managed OM fund, run by Whitechurch Securities in Bristol and Old Mutual, has turned £1,000 into £1,325 since last June, just pipping the All Share by £24. The worst, the Johnson Fry WPF M&G fund, has lost more than £400.

To be fair, most broker funds are designed to take a cautious investment policy that will beat building society returns over the long term. Although over five years the average broker life fund does beat cash, just, they are repeatedly lapped by the mediocre funds they are supposed to replace.

For example, only one of the six broad groupings of broker life funds — the so-called managed funds — actually achieves a better average return than the insurers over five years. In the average broker managed funds £1,000 became £1,614.88 since June 1993, nearly £120 better than the insurer.

The news is even worse if you are relying on your broker for a pension. On average none of the broker pension funds beat pension funds run by insurers over five years. In comparison, tracking the FTSE All Share over the past 60 months could have given you £2,330 (Source: Standard & Poor's Mitrupal). The bottom line is, if you want a pension you are better

GEORGE HERRINGSHAW/HEADLINE

Most of the investors' money has been handled by amateurs

was true for pension funds. While insurers achieved an average annual growth of 9.2 per cent, broker funds grew by just 7 per cent. This alarming gap in performance continues to exist even where IFAs have outsourced the investment decisions to a third-party fund managers and stockbrokers.

All this leaves investors at the mercy of IFAs who are operating under an ugly conflict of interest: they may effectively be recommending products which they have a financial interest in, but which they know to be inferior. So concerned has the PIA become it is setting up a specialist unit to monitor broker funds. From next month IFAs will have to

ment Managers recently renamed itself the National Association of Professional Investment Managers. However, Paul Hatch, a director, insists broker funds have a future. "If you strip out the poor performers broker funds are actually quite good. The quality brokers are actually providing returns substantially better than funds run by their host life company."

However, statistics provided to *Weekend Money* show that "stripping out" the bad eggs as Mr Hatch suggests would actually decimate his industry. Broker funds are the slow coaches of the investment industry circuit, leaving some investors worse off than if they

sticking with a traditional pension provider. If you want an equity investment, simply buying a tracker fund will be better.

Fortunately, many broker funds are now closed to new business. Disturbingly, however, many IFAs have moved into discretionary fund management, which means they do exactly the same as before but under a different name. The PIA is watching.

Next week: stockbrokers' performance goes under the spotlight

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while Conal Gregory seeks a different sort of odds



Despair for Leighton, the Scotland goalkeeper in their opening game against Brazil, as Boyd scores an own goal

A never-ending spread

Spread betting is for those who feel constrained by fixed odds and can afford to lose large sums backing hunches. In fixed odds, the stake is all you can lose. In spread betting, profits — and losses — are proportionate to the units staked. This means many times the original stake money can be won or lost. The bookmaker absorbs the betting tax and the payment is therefore without any deductions. Unlike other forms of betting, you do not have to wait for the end of a race or game to close a position as a profit can be taken or a loss cut while the sport is still being played.

The "spread" is the difference between the price at which you can back your selection to do well and the price at which it can be backed to perform poorly. If the spread on the total goals to be scored during the World Cup is quoted as 160-165, it means the spread firm thinks the result will be on or between these two figures. If you feel the number will be higher, place a bet at 165. If £5 a goal is bet and 200 goals is the result, £175 is won (200 minus 165 times £5). However, for every goal below 165, you lose £5.

If you feel the bookmaker is too

optimistic and fewer than 160 goals will be scored, place the bet at 160. In spread betting you are not required to predict the exact result — just the correct trend will ensure you are a winner.

Kelvin Richardson, 35, has been spread betting with City Index for 12 years. An equity trader with ING Barings, his worst bet was three years ago when he lost £81,000 on the Rugby Union World Cup. "The magic is to deal while a game is being played," says Richardson, who may make up to 12 calls during a game.

He has bet £3,000 per goal that the total goals scored will exceed 167. He thinks fewer than 34 red cards will be issued and has bet at £2,000 a card below this level.

IG Index, one of the major companies in spread betting, opened at 51-55 points for Brazil to win and has reduced this to 49-53 points, based on 100 points for the winner, 80 for second, 60 for third, 40 for fourth, 20 for the losing quarter-finalists and 10 for each of the last 16 teams.

It quotes 36-40 for Argentina, 35-39 France, 34-38 Germany, 33-37 Holland, 32-36 Italy. England opened at 32-36 and has fallen to 24-28 with Scotland on 4-6. Minimum bet is £2 per point. Sporting

Index quotes England at 53-58 on an index where 200 is the winner, 150 runner-up, 100 losing the semi-finals and 50 for losing the quarter-finals. Bets can be from £1 a point. William Hill, with a minimum £2 bet, quotes Brazil 48-52 to win and England at 24-28, on 100-point indexes.

A profit could already have been made on the number of red cards to be issued in the 64 matches. Many bookmakers quoted 19-21 initially and revised this to 39-41 after Fifa changed its rule that a tackle from behind meant automatic dismissal. Four years ago 13 red cards and 207 yellow cards were issued in 52 games. Currently 315-325 (City Index), 312-322 (IG Index), 305-20 Ladbrokes are quoted for yellow cards.

If the total number of corners (650-670) or minutes that England will play (430-450) or Scotland (295-310) appeals, there are spreads available. Another bet is to predict the total shirt number for the scorers (1850-1900 City Index, 1840-1890 IG Index).

City Index 0171-861 5000; IG Index 0500-911 911; Ladbrokes 0800-130 140; William Hill 0800-300 320; Sporting Index 0171-820 9780.

Rich British investors who like to gamble with their wealth are being offered a back-door opportunity to put their money in high-risk hedge funds run by George Soros, the billionaire currency speculator.

Rare chance to invest with Soros

Mr Soros, dubbed "the man who broke the Bank of England" in 1992 after he forced the UK out of the European exchange rate mechanism, has established a formidable reputation as a master investor. A sum of \$100,000 (£60,000) placed with him in 1969 would now be worth a stunning \$333 million. Such success has brought Mr Soros huge personal wealth. He is now believed to be worth £2.5 billion and largely leaves the fund management in the hands of employees while he busies himself with philanthropic work in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.



George Soros busies himself with philanthropic work

Joining such success is not easy as Mr Soros bars private individuals from investing in his Quantum range of funds. But now a small investment company in the offshore haven of Netherlands Antilles where Soros's funds are based — is seeking to change this by marketing the funds to financial advisers in the UK. The Fraternity fund invests in the eight funds run by Soros Fund Management and is open to clients of independent financial advisers (IFAs) for a minimum investment of \$25,000 (£15,250).

However, investors who want to hang on Mr Soros's coat-tails need to have the stomach for a topsy turvy ride. Hedge investing, as practised by Soros Fund Management, is the ultimate in high-risk endeavours, although it doesn't have to be. In essence hedge investing is simply a defensive strategy for making money when stock markets are falling — as opposed to conventional fund managers who only prosper when markets rise.

The trick used by hedge managers is to buy financial options which give them the right to sell shares at today's price in three months. If they guess right and the share price falls, the managers can exercise the options and make a profit. However, there is always the risk that the market will not fall and the expensive options are proved worthless.

Soros's Quantum funds are

far more aggressive and take the hedge concept much further. Essentially, their managers are big betters, borrowing heavily to buy options and other financial derivatives to leverage as much profit as they can out of each investment opportunity.

This strategy can pull off spectacular results. Soros Fund Management is estimated to have made £1 billion betting sterling would leave the ERM in 1992. However, the maestro is believed to have lost twice that amount when global markets tumbled unexpectedly last October. Nevertheless, SFM has grown into a powerful operator, with more than \$20 billion at its disposal. Its sophisticated options strategy radically multiplies the punch the firm can pull, and

even a rumour of a Soros purchase can be enough to move markets.

Such financial muscle is not without its critics. When SFM began speculating on the weak Asian currencies last year, Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, was moved to call Mr Soros a "moron". Others say the financier's ruthless investment tactics have meant economic devastation for countries who have resisted him. However, his devotees claim his critics are simply blaming the messenger. Hedge funds only exploit fundamental economic realities, which governments ignore at their citizens' peril, they say.

Certainly, Mr Soros is not the only one in the game. Another big hitter in the world

of hedge funds is Julian Robertson. His company, Tiger Fund Management, made the news recently when Baroness Thatcher joined the board.

Investors who want to share in the turbulent world of high finance need to take care, however. Hedge funds are unauthorised under the Financial Services Act and cannot be marketed to the public. The fear is that small investors could have their life savings swept away in a multi-billion-pound gamble they do not understand.

In addition, Fraternity Fund Management, the company that is now touting itself to IFAs in the UK, operates its only fund from another offshore centre in the British Virgin Islands. Being offshore also puts the fund outside the jurisdiction of the Financial Services Authority, the City watchdog which protects investors. If things go wrong investors will find it hard to get compensation. However, they can take some comfort from the fact that their money will be looked after by ABN Amro Trust, a subsidiary of the Dutch bank, which is acting as the fund's trustee.

Not much is known about Fraternity's founder, John Anthony, who describes himself simply as an "entrepreneur". He has run the \$9 million fund for eight years, for himself and around 40 other investors. In that time the fund has achieved 32 per cent annual growth which he now wants to share with other investors.

James Higgins, a director of Chamberlain de Broe, an IFA in London, says he started using hedge funds for his clients last year as he grew concerned about a stock market crash. However, he warns investors to be cautious, particularly with high-risk funds such as Fraternity. Not only can their performance be extremely volatile, veering from large losses to big gains from month to month, but often the funds are denominated in US dollars which means UK investors face an additional currency risk. Offshore funds often charge higher fees than funds in the UK. Mr Higgins says managers' performance claims can be misleading, particularly where the figures are backdated before the funds were launched.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

Game punters bet on roll of the balls

Maurice McLeod, a reporter on *The Voice* magazine, plans to wager £200 that England, Nigeria or Jamaica will win the World Cup. If he goes to Ladbrokes the odds will be 10-1, 28-1 and 300-1 respectively, hoping his favourite teams will come up trumps.

Mr McLeod says: "I'm backing England because I'm patriotic, Nigeria because I'd love to see an African nation do well and the 28-1 odds make it very attractive. And I'm going to put money on Jamaica out of blind loyalty — it's like buying a scarf for the team you support. I love football and betting gives me

more of a stake in the match. It's not just the money."

He's also placed some wacky bets in the past, such as £200 on the possibility he would have a White Christmas three years ago at 10-1. "I would have made two grand if I'd got it right. Unfortunately, the snow came on Boxing Day so I lost the bet, but it was still worth it for the excitement. I was looking out of the window at 11 o'clock at night waiting for just one snowflake to fall on the weather centre."

Mr McLeod says: "If there is a sports event I'm going to watch then I'll put a bet on it, but I only bet on horses on a whim."

Maria Hunt, the director of Independent Travel Publishing, plays the National Lottery on a fairly regular basis, always sticking to the same numbers.

She is quite happy with her success so far — three wins of £7, £43 and £10. But she believes that "instead of having one or two jackpot winners they should divide up the money giving a larger number of people smaller sums".

Ms Hunt also has a few Premium Bonds which her grandmother bought for her when she was two years old, but has lost track of them.

"I don't know if I've ever won anything because I've

never checked them. I don't even know if they've got my address and I don't know the numbers of my bonds," she says.

There is some £16 million worth of unclaimed Premium Bond prize money, including some £10,000 and £5,000 prizes.

A National Savings spokeswoman said: "We can do checks very quickly. All Ms Hunt needs to do is write to National Savings, providing us with information on who bought the premium bonds for her, roughly when they were purchased, her address at the time, her date of birth and her signature."

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*Source: Reuters Hindsight, period 30/4/93 to 30/4/98, offer to bid basis, net income re-invested. Investment in the Norwich Property Trust should be seen as a medium to long term investment. We may refuse to switch or encash investments as property in the fund may not always be readily saleable. The value of property is a matter of value's opinion rather than of fact. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of a unit trust and the income from it may go down as well as up and the investor may not get back the original amount invested. Funds invested abroad may also be subject to exchange rate fluctuations. Information/advice will only relate to Norwich Union products. We may telephone you to confirm receipt of your information pack. In certain circumstances information may be passed to other insurance companies or professional experts acting on our behalf. Details that you provide may be used by Norwich Union group companies, your insurance intermediary or other relevant organisations for marketing purposes, such as market research and contacting you regarding your insurance or investment needs. If you wish to opt out of the Norwich Union group marketing, please write to Norwich Union, FREEPOST, Mailing Exclusion Team, PO Box 903, Sheffield S11 8LE. For your protection all telephone calls will be recorded. Norwich Union Trust Managers Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO, Norwich Union Direct Financial Services Limited No. 3013167. Both companies are registered in England and have their registered offices at 8 Saffery Street, Norwich, NR1 3NG. Both companies are members of the Norwich Union Marketing Group which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for Life Insurance, Pensions and Unit Trust business and only advises on its own products.

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ABBEY GRAB IT 55

Windfall shares and dividends are repossessed



WEEKEND MONEY

BEHIND THE MASK 61

Why broker bonds and funds have got a bad name



Whether it is in a casino, at the racetrack, in betting shops or just the humble National Lottery, everyone wants a piece of the action

We're all going gambling mad

We are turning into a nation of gamblers, spending billions every year on lottery tickets, sporting bets and premium bonds... The money frittered away in the risk-taking frenzy will be considerably boosted over the next seven days in what promises to be the biggest betting week in history...

INSIDE

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56 The pick of the fixed rate mortgage deals



58 A comeback for split capital trusts



BUSINESS NEWS PAGES 26-31

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Mutuals win savings battle

The mutual building societies are winning the battle for the nation's borrowers and savers, leaving the newly converted societies running scared. This week, the Nationwide, the UK's biggest building society, announced a 40 per cent increase in profit, revealed that it now lent more money than the Halifax, Abbey National and Alliance & Leicester put together...

Caroline Merrell and Susan Emmett on the fallout from the Northern Rock affair

in the saving and borrowing market was revealed this week in a letter circulated to 72 MPs that have signed up to an early day motion that attempts to protect mutuality. The letter accompanied by a transcript of an article by Mike Blackburn can be viewed as an attempt by the Halifax to block changes that make it more difficult for its competition to convert.

But angry savers are deserting a bank which they feel they can no longer trust. Ken Lewis, a semi-retired businessman in Essex, withdrew his large savings as soon as Northern Rock announced the 30-day amnesty. Mr Lewis chose not to go into Northern Rock's instant-access account which pays a top rate of 8.1 per cent but moved to the Halifax at 7.85 per cent.



Ken Lewis has finished with Northern Rock and gone to Halifax even though it pays a lower rate

enced it would be raising its savings rates by an average of 0.35 per cent from next Thursday. But the most attractive rate is likely to be offered by the instant-access Invest Direct account which at the moment pays 7.2 per cent on sums over £50,000.

Yawn, yawn, yawn.

(Our Growth PEP has made the top 10%, again.)

Table with columns: Direct access up to £100, Telephone Number, Account, Deposit, Rate %, Interest Paid. Lists various banks and their savings products.

Isas? Just not worth it for many

A new political row has broken out over the individual savings account, the replacement for Peps and Tesses that the Government says will revolutionise savings when it is launched next April. Opposition MPs are claiming that tax changes made by the Government last year mean Isas will be far less attractive than Peps and Tesses ever were.

equities inside their PEP predecessor. To understand why, it is best to look at what the old PEP and the new Isa are supposed to offer equity investors: a complete shelter from capital gains and income taxes. Upon closer inspection, however, these benefits prove pretty illusory for most of us.

what it is now) for equity investors - but only until 2004, Nick Gibb, Conservative MP for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton, and a former tax specialist with KPMG, the accountant, says the withdrawal of the credit will remove the only tax incentive for ordinary people to take out an equity Isa.

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Vertical sidebar containing various news snippets and a table of contents for the magazine.